All-out war on NPA guerrillas hurting civilians

STORY ON PAGE A2

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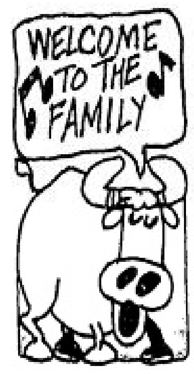

Joey role in rites irks Cory

By J. L. Javellana

QUE barbaridad. Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez will do the welcoming

JOEY/A17

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- **Anding Roces to head DepEd** NEWS / A3
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e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Tuesday, August 20, 2002 ★ 46 pages / 3 sections / vol.17 / no. 253 P15 website: www.inq7.net

BIR chief quits, cries sabotage

Corrupt, inept tax collectors blamed

By Clarissa Batino and Dona Pazzibugan

IN THE END, resistance to reform from within the Bureau of Internal Revenue proved too much for controversial BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez.

Yesterday, Bañez resigned from his post, hinting strongly that corrupt and inept tax collectors were rebelling against an anti-graft campaign within the government's biggest revenue earner.

"I strongly believe that a few perpetrators are out to sabotage the reforms by deliberately cutting back on collection during the first half. They are undermining the principles behind the reforms through a campaign to misinform the rest of the workforce," he said in a statement.

"By doing so, they are holding the country hostage in their desire to protect their own personal interests. Their actions, however, reveal their motives as they stand in the way of the government's resolve to root out graft and corruption in the BIR," he added.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, who was with him when he made his announcement, thanked Bañez "for his patriotism and self-sacrifice in taking a road that many would not have dared traverse."

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye read a statement of the President, which said she accepted the resignation "with a sad heart" since Bañez had instituted several important reforms at the BIR.

Bañez, she said, had worked to expand the revenue base and to free the tax collection system from "political pressures."

BIR/A19

JESS YUSON

RESIGNED BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez says scalawags in the agency were derailing his anti-graft campaign. With him during a press conference is Finance Secretary Jose Camacho.

AFP clears 3 officers of collusion with Abu Sayyaf

By Martin P. Marfil
and Cynthia D. Balana

THE ARMED Forces of the Philippines yesterday cleared a two-star general, a colonel and a major suspected of colluding with Abu Sayyaf bandits despite a Senate report signed by 20 senators recommending the court martial of the three officers.

Only Sen. Gregorio Honasan did not sign the Senate report.

"We had an inquiry and they were cleared of any collusion with the Abu Sayyaf," Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion, AFP spokesperson, said.

Purificacion was referring to Maj. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, Col. Juvenal Narcise and Maj. Eliseo Campued, whom the parish priest of Lamitan, Basilan, had accused of allowing the bandits to leave the town on June 2, 2001 after money changed hands.

The bandits, led by Abu Sabaya, stormed the Dr. Maria Torres Memorial Hospital the previous night, bringing with them the 20 hostages they seized from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan on May 27, 2001.

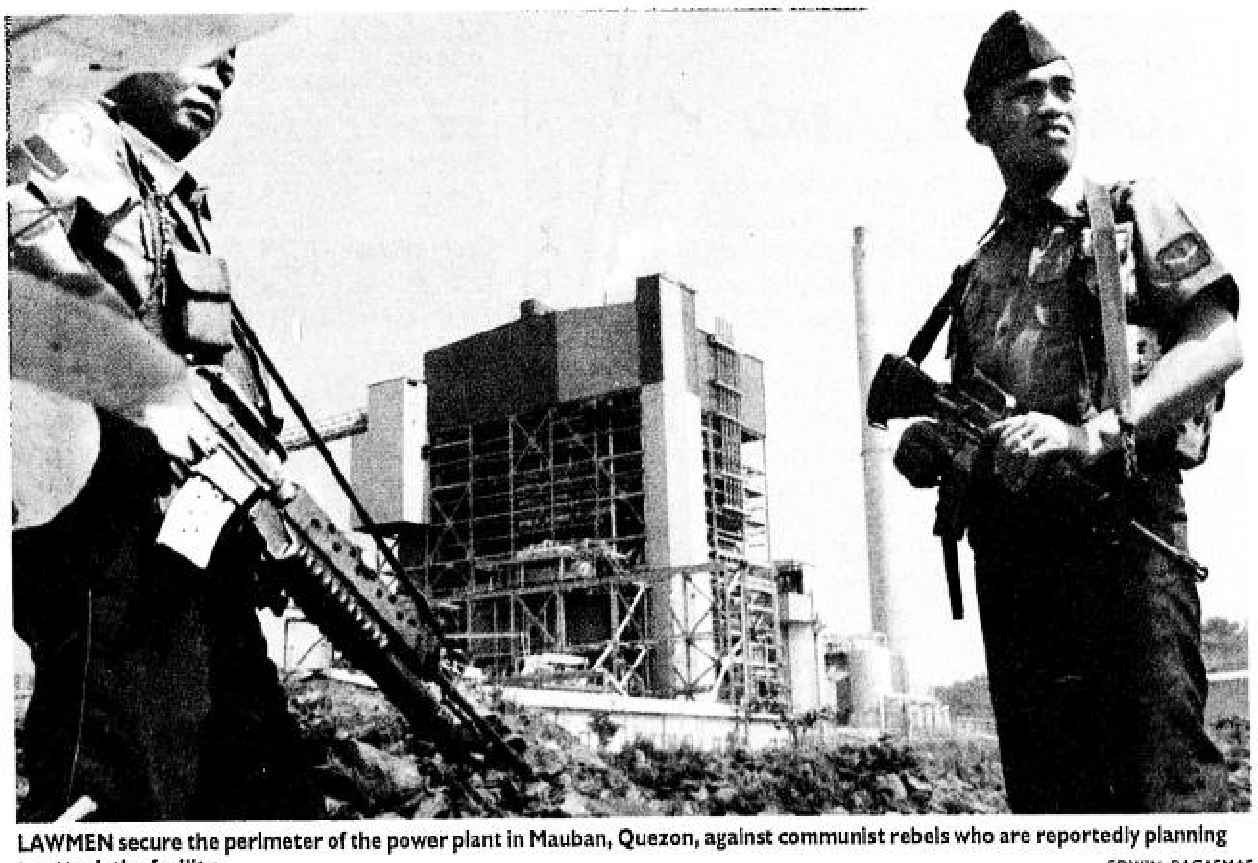
The hostages included three Americans—Martin and Gracia Burnham, and Guillermo Sobero.

Purificacion said a board of inquiry was formed after the then Army Inspector General, Brig. Gen. Reynaldo Rivera, came out with a report last year. But Purificacion said he could not remember when the inquiry was conducted.

In his report, Rivera blamed numerous factors, including the delay of reinforcements, for the escape of the main Abu Sayyaf group from Lamitan.

Rivera said higher-ups, who had failed to deliver the counter-terrorist force within two hours as promised, caused the delay.

AFP/A18



LAWMEN secure the perimeter of the power plant in Mauban, Quezon, against communist rebels who are reportedly planning to attack the facility.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Gloria: US true friend of RP

By Carlito Pablo *in Manila*
and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NEVER quarrel with the United States. Defend private property.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday laid down these ideological pillars for her war against communist rebels as the government and the National Democratic Front continued to edge closer to a full-blown conflict.

Ms Macapagal took a leaf from the statements of the late President Manuel Quezon, to whom she paid tribute in a speech in Lucena City during the celebration of his 124th birth anniversary.

Quoting what she described as Quezon's last "political testament" in 1944, she said: "Regard America as a true friend of the Philippines and adopt the policy never to quarrel with America.

"I am against communism. I am a firm believer in the institution of private property.

"Should anyone attempt to convert every Filipino into a rogue, the government should act without loss of time."

The US government recently included the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), in its list of "foreign terrorist organizations."

In her speech, the President said she "understands" the US government's move. She said it was because of the CPP-NPA's "terrorist activities meant to

GLORIA/A17

Shipping exec linked to tax scam flees

By Philip Tubeza

A SHIPPING executive has reportedly fled with his family to the United States after the National Bureau of Investigation subpoenaed him for his alleged involvement in the P203-million tax diversion scam.

Ronilo T. Yu, vice president for finance and administration of Lorenzo Shipping Corp., was charged with five others on Friday on 18 counts of syndicated estafa and for violating the Anti-Money Laundering Law.

"We just had him subpoenaed and he escapes. There is really something more than fishy here," NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said.

The NBI is waiting for confirmation of Yu's escape from the immigration bureau, said lawyer Palmer Mallari, NBI Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division acting chief.

Wycoco was quick to make a distinction between Yu and the company he worked for. "We don't want to besmirch Lorenzo Shipping. It's possible that they might even be the victim," he said. Only some people within the firm were involved, he added.

Lorenzo Shipping, with offices at 825 Muelle dela Industria St. in Binondo, Manila, was one of the complainants in the case.

Wycoco said Yu was charged together with businessman Teodorico Rivera, of Ipil-ipil Street, Town and Country Subdivision, Marilao, Bulacan; Rivera's niece-in-law Resty,

SHIPPING/A19

SEC records show 18 erring pre-need firms

By Elena R. Torrijos

EIGHTEEN pre-need companies, including College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. (CAP), have yet to comply with the Securities and Exchange Commission's accounting rules for the industry, raising fears that they have not presented an accurate picture of their finances much like Enron.

Enron, a publicly listed US energy-trading firm that collapsed last December, used complex partnerships to keep some $500 million in debt off its books so it could continue to get cash and credit.

Twenty-six pre-need companies were also found to have trust fund investments that did not follow the SEC's prescribed investment portfolio mix.

Companies that provide education, pension and life plans are called pre-need firms because they prepare for the needs of their clients at a specific period in the future.

SEC data showed that 42 of the 46 pre-need companies licensed to operate this year had submitted their financial statements for 2001. Twenty-four were considered compliant with the SEC's Pre-Need Uniform Chart of Accounts. Eighteen were not.

The high level of non-compliance has persisted in the industry although pre-need companies were told to adopt

SEC/A17

Social volcano about to erupt, says new party

By Volt Contreras

WARNING of a "social volcano" about to erupt, a gun control lobbyist, a veteran lawyer and Catholic lay leaders yesterday launched a political party offering voters a purported "alternative" for the 2004 polls.

"One man's hunger, one man's need, affects us all," lawyer Mario Ongkiko said as he and Reynaldo "Nandy" Pacheco of the Gunless Society launched the Kapatiran sa Pangkalahatang Kabutihan (KPK) along with some 100 followers at the Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan.

"Multiply this hungry man several times over, in millions of shanties all over the Philippines, and you have a social volcano right in our very midst that is waiting to explode."

Ongkiko, who serves as KPK president, said the volcano's initial rumblings took the form of the bloody siege of Malacañang last year, the militant groups' open call for a "revolution," and the recent "raid" by Negros farmers on a government warehouse "for 10 sacks of rice to feed their hungry children."

But he quickly dismissed speculation that the KPK, or Political Movement for the Common Good, had ties with the so-called "Freedom Force" earlier espoused by newspaper columnist Teodoro Benigno, who also used the "social volcano" metaphor to describe the rising tension underlining the country's economic problems.

Ongkiko projected the party as the voice of taxpayers disgusted with lawmakers "bickering" over committee chairmanships and pork barrel funds

SOCIAL/A18

Second FRONT PAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Visayas and Bicol region will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/20/02

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

All-out war vs NPA hurting civilians

By Tonette Orejas, *PDI Central Luzon Desk*
and Ferdinand O. Zuasola , *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The Armed Forces' stepped-up drive against communist rebels since July has been sowing fear and disrupting agricultural activities in Zambales and Bataan provinces, a report by a farmers' organization claimed yesterday.

Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, chief of the Army's Northern Luzon Command, however, denied the Pambansang Katipunan ng Makabayang Magbubukid report.

Garcia said the PKMM's claims were "scripted to put pressure on the operations of the AFP to establish peace in the area."

The PKMM is an affiliate of the left-leaning Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya (KPD).

Elsa Novo, PKKM spokesperson in Zambales, said that since July, Army soldiers have been conducting regular foot patrols in eight villages, among them Sta. Cruz, Masinloc, Iba and Botolan, which are all located in the foothills of the Zambales mountain range.

She said soldiers had conducted a census of the residents of Barangay Bitago in Iba.

She said the AFP had enforced a curfew and male residents were invited for questioning although they were later released.

In Barangay Jesmag in Iba, Novo said government forces conducted house-to-house searches in July.

In all eight villages, checkpoints have been a regular sight since July.

Novo noted that these measures, coming on the heels of the government's declaration of an all-out war on the communists, were really directed at civilians rather than the insurgents.

Fear

The New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, and its rival, the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan (RHB) of the Marxist-Leninist Party of the Philippines (MLPP), are known to operate in Zambales province.

Citing reports received from PKMM leaders in the eight towns, Novo said many farmers have stopped farming for fear of being suspected of being rebels or their supporters.

Others have been tilling their plots for shorter periods, avoiding Army troopers at dusk, she said.

Some families have left the villages for fear of being caught in the crossfire, she said.

"There's fear among the villagers because the situation is abnormal. Their movements are restricted and their lives always at risk," Novo told reporters here.

Garcia questioned the PKMM motives. He said the group had been "identified as aligned with the CPP rejectionist group, the MLPP-RHB."

But Novo and Lava said the PKMM was a "legitimate organization of farmers" and should not be mistaken as having links to any armed or underground organization.

Clash

In a related development, an Army soldier and a civilian agent were killed in a clash with some 80 NPA rebels in Mexico, Pampanga, on Friday night.

Reports identified the slain soldier as Sgt. Jovencio Vidal, a native of Pangasinan and a member of the 69th Infantry Battalion. The agent was not identified.

A policeman in Sta. Ana town, also in Pampanga, was also reported killed on Saturday.

Reports said policeman Dante Siwa was shot but police could not say if NPA or RHB hit men were involved.

In Baganga, Davao Oriental, three boys were killed in a clash between government troops and NPA rebels on Sunday.

Yesterday, Maj. Johnny Macanas, spokesperson of the 4th Infantry Division, admitted that the site of the clash was "a civilian community with four houses" and that what occurred there had been a raid.

Resident Amelia Dongyapon protested said that their community was not a rebel camp.

"It just so happened that the rebels slept over at our place that night," Dongyapon said.

She said she had politely asked the rebels to go away for fear that civilians would be suspected of being NPA rebels, but "they (rebels) did not heed to our pleas."

Killed were Rap-Rap Jose, 5; Mariquel Donato, 3, and Kevin Dungyapon, 7. They sustained gunshot wounds in the head and body.

Seriously wounded were Jopet Donato, 6 and Dionelle Jose, 11. The mothers of those killed and wounded were also hurt and were brought to the provincial hospital here.

The victims are Mandaya *lumad* from Sitio Nursery, Barangay Binondo in Baganga.

Macanas said the government would pay for the burial and hospital expenses.

Peace

Militant groups, meanwhile, said President Macapagal-Arroyo should focus her attention on peace negotiations and not public relations.

Formal talks, which have been suspended since last year appeared headed for limbo as both sides have lost interest in reviving them.

The President has instead opened communication lines to the rebels through so-called "back channel" talks.***With reports from Gerald G. Lacuarta, Martin P. Marfil, Cynthia D. Balana and TJ Burgonio***

GMA politically dead by 2004 —Bayan Muna

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—A militant leftist group has boldly pronounced President Macapagal-Arroyo "out" of the next presidential race.

There would be no Gloria for President in 2004 because the people would make sure she was "politically dead" before then, Bayan Muna deputy secretary general Robert de Castro said in a statement.

De Castro called Ms Macapagal the country's "worst president" ever.

"We are witnessing an out-and-out political puppetry to the United States never (before) done by any Philippine president, and an intensifying political repression comparable to the situation before (Ferdinand) Marcos declared martial law," De Castro said.

De Castro chided Speaker Jose de Venecia's statement reiterating the People Power Coalitions' (PPC) all-out support for the President. "All indications (point to) the disintegration of the ruling coalition," he said.

On the other hand, the President received a timely advice from a concerned ally yesterday.

Batanes Rep. Florencio "Butch" Abad said Ms Macapagal should form a "virtual party" of people who were loyal to her and shared her goals.

Calling attention to the non-passage of some of the President's priority measures, Abad said, "She needs to put together a team, or a structure, that she can rely on. While she is head of Lakas, not all its members adhere to her agenda or support her appointees."

The Liberal Party (LP) president aired his proposal in the wake of reports that the ruling party and the PPC itself were fractious.

The PPC is composed of Lakas, LP, Raul Roco's Aksyon Demokratiko, Rene de Villa's Reporma, Lito Osmeña's Promdi and the President's Kampi. Ms Macapagal was recently elected chair of Lakas and named honorary chair of the LP. Her trusted lieutenant Dante Ang heads Kampi.

Another congressman earlier claimed that Lakas stalwarts, including former President Fidel Ramos, Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. might support Roco in 2004. De Venecia has denied this. ***With Juliet L. Javellana and Armand N. Nocum***

DPWH officials not quite off hook

By Armand N. Nocum

SECRETARY Simeon Datumanong has admitted that suspended undersecretaries Edmundo Mir and Mabini Pablo have not been directly linked to the P139-million vehicle repair scam in the Department of Public Works and Highways.

But, Datumanong said in a telephone interview over the weekend, this did not make the two officials any less guilty under the principle of "command responsibility."

"I think they should explain their non-action," he said, of the failure of the two to report the scam that was believed to have been going on for two years before it was recently uncovered.

Mir is undersecretary in charge of all DPWH bureaus, including the Bureau of Equipment, whose officials and personnel were found to have been charging "ghost repairs" of vehicles to the department and padding the cost of repairs and spare parts.

Pablo oversees the DPWH manpower and management service and the comptrollership and financial management service.

In an earlier letter to newspapers, Pablo said the "documents covering disbursements for the repair of department vehicles do not pass through my desk."

He clarified that he was not among the 41 officials "directly or indirectly" implicated in the scam.

Datumanong acknowledged this, saying: "There is no evidence implicating them directly, they have not signed anything or ordered anything" relating to the scam.

But, he said, President Macapagal-Arroyo wants the two investigated and charged with negligence if necessary.

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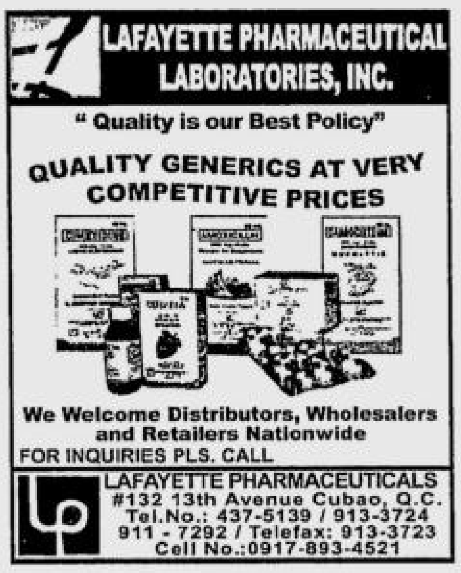

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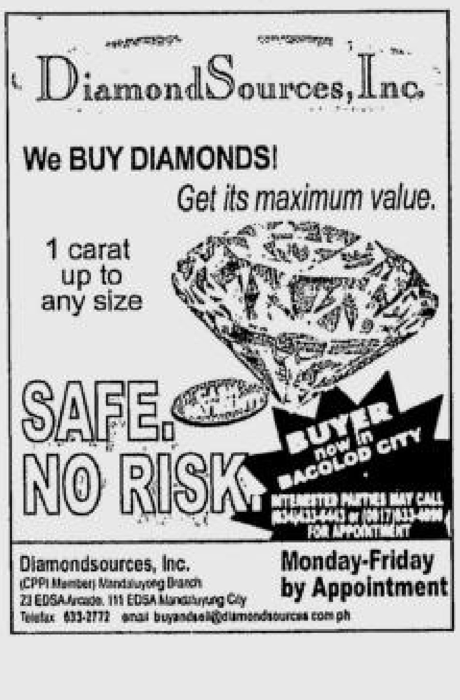

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Bunye: Anding Roces offered DepEd post

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has chosen her next education secretary to replace the resigned Raul Roco and he is none other than the education czar of her late father, Malacañang confirmed yesterday.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye confirmed, in a roundabout way, that Alejandro "Anding" Roces, 78, who was education secretary during the term of the late President Diosdado Macapagal, was offered Roco's post.

As press time, however, the INQUIRER could not confirm reports Roces had declined the post.

Bunye, in so many words, said that Roces was the President's top choice for the education portfolio, but he would not say if Roces accepted the job.

During his news briefing yesterday, Bunye was deliberately vague at first.

"Read my lips," he said thrice, smiling, when asked if Roces was the President's choice to replace Roco at the Department of Education.

Told that INQUIRER columnist Neal Cruz had quoted the President as saying that Roces was her choice during a dinner with journalists Friday night, Bunye said: "If it comes from Mr. Neal Cruz, it must be true. I don't know. It must be true." Bunye continued to smile. He was at the same dinner at the Palace.

Ms Macapagal appointed Roces chair of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board in March last year replacing Nic Tiongson.

Last June, the President replaced him with Marilen Dinglasan, her classmate at Assumption College. Roces was appointed instead to the board of the Philippine Postal Savings Bank.

Over the weekend, Bunye said the President was only choosing between two "educators"—both of them men and non-politicians—to replace Roco. He had refused to identify the men.

Bunye said the top choice was sounded out Friday night, hours after the President formally accepted Roco's resignation.

But unconfirmed reports said the top choice declined the offer.

The other reported candidates were former education undersecretary Nilo Rosas, former Angeles University president Emmanuel Angeles and Far Eastern University president Edilberto de Jesus.

Rosas is president of the Philippine Normal University while Angeles is chair of the Clark Development Authority.

'Roco also received fees he condemned'

By Donna S. Cueto

RESIGNED education secretary Raul Roco had partaken of the service fees he had branded as "immoral and illegal" and that were being received by employees at the Department of Education who processed teachers' loans.

DepEd employees pointed out that Roco himself received service fees totaling P148,706.22 in December last year, and so did his chief of staff, Hilda C. Villadolid, in the amount of P77,794.86.

The two distributed the money to their staff at the Office of the Secretary per a memorandum by Roco dated Dec. 19, 2001 and addressed to then Undersecretary Ernesto Pangan, the employees said.

The combined total of Roco's and Villadolid's service fees, as reflected in the memorandum signed by Roco and Villadolid themselves, came to P226,501.68.

"Our issue against Roco was not really just about the service fees or the benefits. It was more on his attitude, the way he made people feel, and the way he acted at DepEd. *Ang hirap paniwalaan ang isang tao* (It's hard to have confidence in someone) who's not practicing what he preaches," said Cleofe Velasquez-Ocampo, a human resources management officer at DepEd.

"Look who's talking. When he accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of not affording him the courtesy and respect he deserved, and of humiliating him, he did not see what he did to the DepEd employees," she said.

DepEd Central office union president Domingo Alidon said that when Roco accused the DepEd employees of being "immoral" for receiving service fees, they felt insulted.

Many were surprised later to learn that Roco himself had received service fees and distributed these to 22 of his staffers.

In the memorandum to Pangan dated Dec. 19, 2001 and titled "Distribution of Service Fee," Roco and Villadolid directed the DepEd undersecretary to distribute their service fees to their staff members.

On the list were 22 names, including Roco's consultants and staff members who had been with him since his Senate days, and the corresponding amounts they should get.

These were their service fees from March to December 2001.

The payment of service fees was previously included in the General Appropriations Act as incentive pay for employees who processed deductions from the salaries of other government employees.

In the latest GAA, however, the collection of service fees was disallowed.

"It shall be unlawful for departments, bureaus, offices and agencies to collect any form of service fees for the payment of any obligation through authorized deductions," the amendment said. The statement was part of the President's Veto Message dated Jan. 21, 2002.

Pangan, who also resigned with Roco, said Roco had wanted a study prepared on how to return the service fees to the teachers.

Now it's Alvarez's turn to face raps

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Heherson Alvarez was slapped yesterday with a P56-million graft complaint before Malacañang by employees of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The question now is: Will he do a Raul Roco?

Roco resigned as education secretary after Department of Education union members filed a complaint against him.

In a complaint filed before the Office of the President, the DENR Employees Union accused Alvarez of hiring consultants at levels "excessive by any standard."

"The salaries of these consultants eat up about P56 million of the department's annual budget," the DENR union complained.

They requested that their complaint be forwarded to either the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission or the Ombudsman. *Carlito Pablo*

NEPOMUCENO

15th St Scho president to be installed

SISTER Josefina Nepomuceno, OSB, will be installed as the 15th president of St. Scholastica's College on Aug. 23. The rites will be held at St. Cecilia's Hall on the Leon Guinto campus at 4 p.m.

Special guests during the investiture are Dr. Amelia Biglete of the Commission on Higher Education, lawyer Ricardo J. Romulo, St. Scholastica's College board chair, and Mother Angelica Leviste, OSB, prioress of the Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing. Fr. Tarcisio Narciso, OSB, will be the main celebrant of the Mass.

Prior to her appointment, Sister Josefina was directress and superior of the Holy Family Academy in Angeles City in 1995-2001. She was acting directress and president of the college in 1970-73.

Her focus for SSC for this school year is "Building a Transforming Community of Peace," with emphasis on peace-building relationships in the family and the school, Sister Josefina said.

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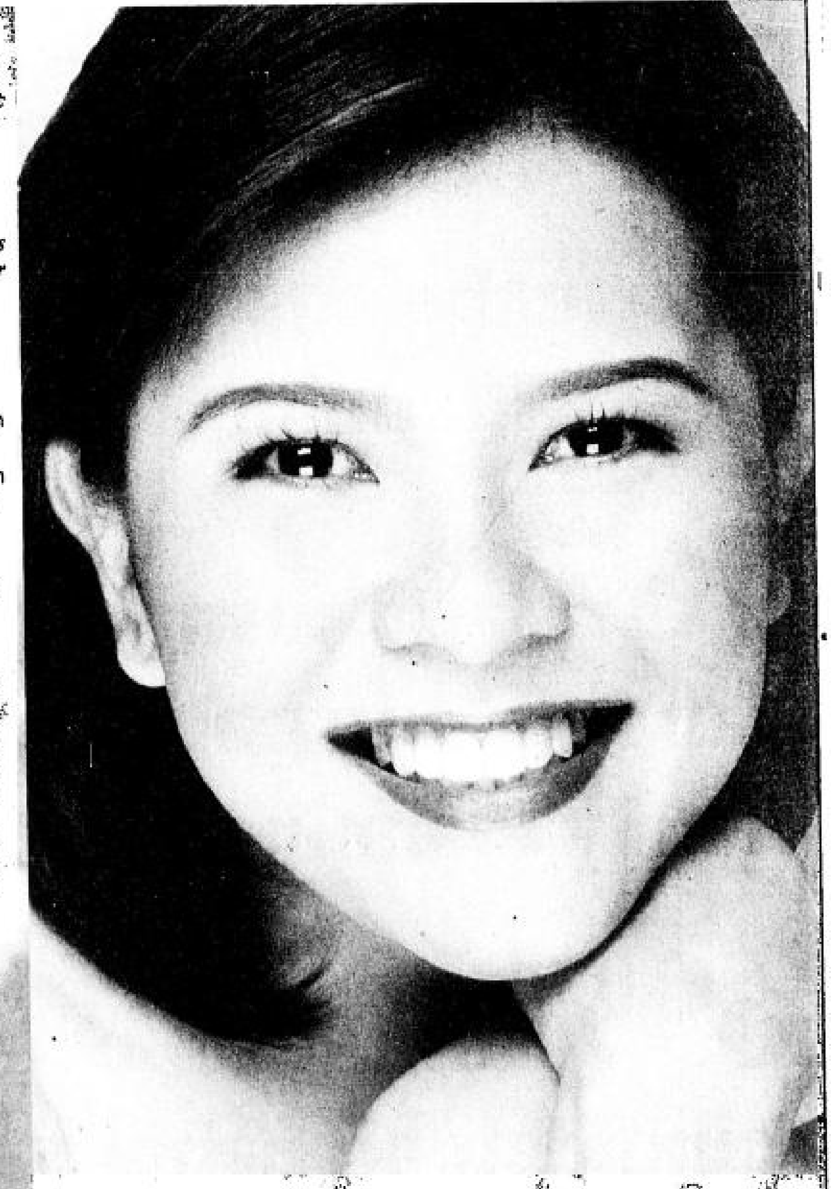

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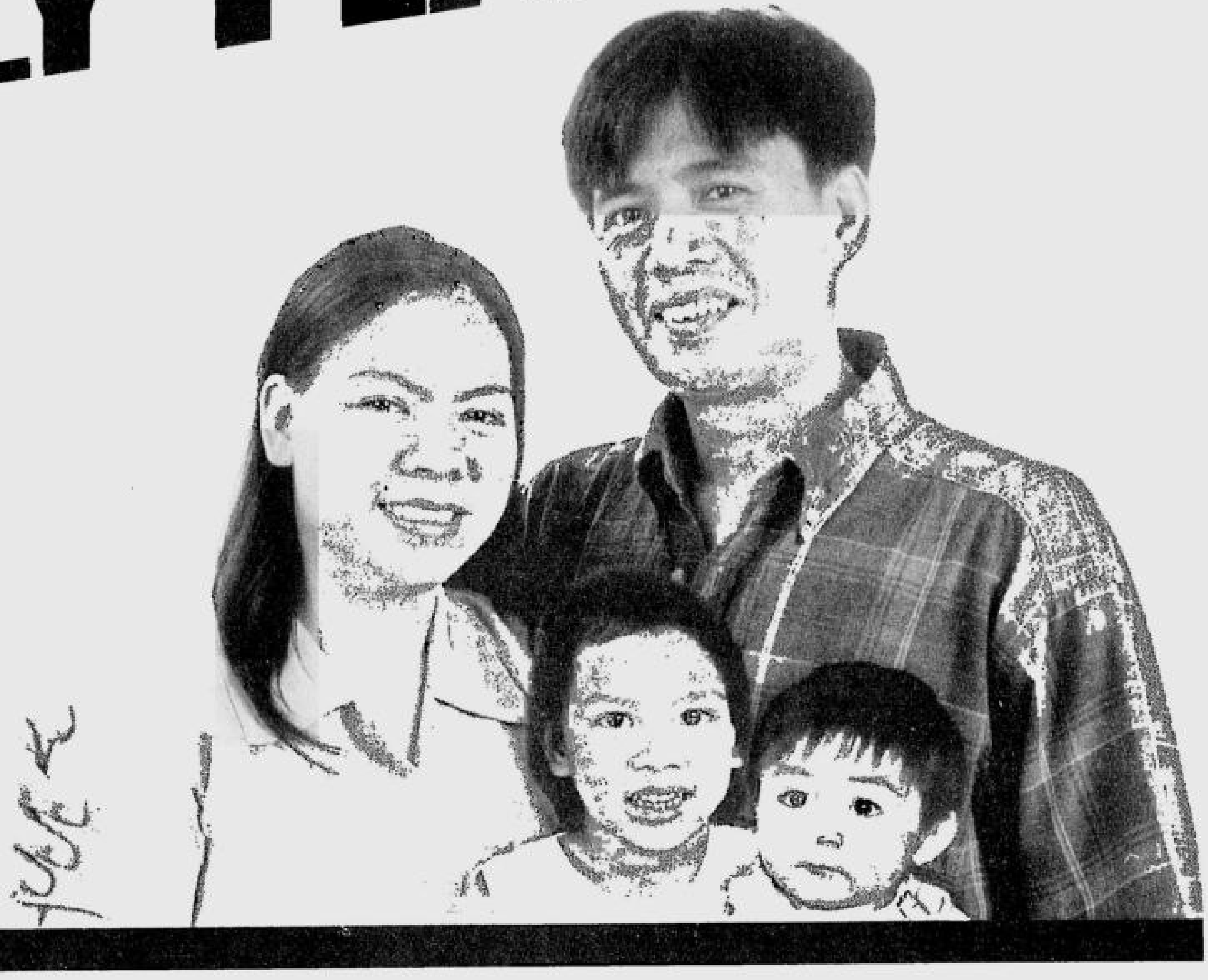

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Smart victim turns tables on abductors

By E. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—The cooperation and accurate information provided by a freed kidnap victim led to the speedy rescue of his ailing wife and two others in South Cotabato, authorities said.

All three hostages were safely recovered, but not one of their 10 abductors was arrested, during the rescue operation in a mountain village in Tantangan, South Cotabato.

Maj. Julileto Ando of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said agricultural trader Gaudioso Villasor could serve as an example to other kidnap victims and their relatives.

The information that Villasor gave the rescue team was "very detailed," Ando said. "This was a classic case of people and government (successfully) working together," he told the INQUIRER.

Villasor, a former provincial board member, his wife Carmen, driver Arius Abang and helper Jovelyn Canaan were kidnapped by suspected members of the Pentagon gang in Barangay Mabon, Tantangan, South Cotabato, last Wednesday. They were en route to General Santos City aboard the family's Mercedes Benz van.

Villasor was freed on Thursday at dawn. His captors gave him P120 for bus fare back to his hometown M'lang in Cotabato, and instructions to raise a P30-million ransom.

Instead, Villasor sought the help of Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol, who then coordinated with police and military authorities. Villasor accompanied the rescuers to Barangay Dumadalag in Tantangan.

"He retraced the kidnappers' route," Piñol said.

As they approached the gang's hideout, the suspects fired at the lawmen, triggering a gunfight.

Piñol recounted that at this point, Abang and Canaan ran for their lives, but they had to leave Carmen, who had been chained by her captors. But the kidnappers did not put up much resistance and ran away.

Speaking to relatives and well-wishers upon reaching home, the 66-year-old Carmen thanked "from the bottom of my heart" everyone who helped in the rescue.

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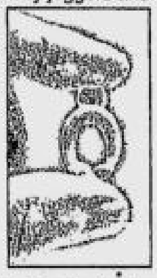

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Loren: No hatchet job; other solons not so sure

By Rocky Nazareno

SENATE Majority Leader Loren Legarda said yesterday militant groups did not have any basis for saying Malacañang was out to do a "hatchet job" on her after she appeared to be a serious threat to the presidential bid of President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2004.

"I'm not sure of the basis for that story," Legarda told Senate reporters, of the item that appeared in yesterday's INQUIRER.

But if the report was true, Legarda said, "it was unfortunate because I am not the enemy."

She added: "There is no reason for (the President) to feel insecure about anything."

But Legarda did leave the door ajar when asked if she would bolt the administration coalition if she felt a demolition job was being waged against her.

"When that time comes, I'll be ready for anything, I fear nothing," she said.

Militant groups, led by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, had warned Legarda she might be next in the "elimination" campaign purportedly being waged against those who might pose a threat to Ms Macapagal's presidential bid in 2004.

"Any political party or potential opponent considered a threat is a vulnerable target of President Macapagal's repression just to cling to power way beyond 2004," KMP chair Rafael Mariano said.

Other administration solons claimed they were the targets of "a black propaganda campaign (currently being waged) against the Senate as an institution."

Speaking on personal and collective privilege, Senators Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Robert Barbers deplored how a newspaper report (not in the INQUIRER) had charged them, together with Senate President Franklin Drilon and former Senate minority leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., with having "overdrawn" their respective allocations under the Priority Assistance Development Fund or pork barrel.

"(The news report) imputed the subtle destruction of the public's trust in the members of the Senate and projects us in a bad light," Magsaysay said.

He said the news report "was a product of a smear campaign to discredit my credibility and impugn (my) reputation."

The report said Magsaysay had "overdrawn" his allocation by P60 million. It said Barbers was overdrawn by P28.9 million, Drilon by P100 million, and Pimentel, P24.6 million.

Magsaysay noted that the "smear campaign" was launched after the Senate committee on national defense and security, which he chairs, recommended the court martial of three military officers involved in the escape of the Abu Sayyaf in Lamitan, Basilan.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara, interpellating Magsaysay, pointed out that the demolition job was "the sword (that) is cutting a swath across everyone."

"(The demolition job) is striking at the institution to render us less effective, to be independent and even strikes at no less than the head of the Senate," Angara said, referring to Drilon who was reported to have overdrawn P100 million from his pork barrel.

Angara likewise noted that the smear campaign hit at anyone, regardless of party affiliation.

"It hit an independent like Senator Magsaysay, a member of Lakas like Senator Barbers, an opposition member like Senator Pimentel," he said.

Angara observed that "there seems to be some method or some system to this madness."

Barbers was more scathing.

"I am not a presidentiable, nor am I a vice presidentiable. Why do they hit me like this?" he said.

'Aren't they called tourists?'

THE BUREAU of Immigration has alerted its agents in the country's ports of entry, particularly the international airports, to be on the lookout for suspicious characters lugging camera equipment around.

In a memorandum to immigration personnel, Commissioner Andrea Domingo said the al-Qaida terrorist network has ordered its operatives to take photographs of prospective targets abroad.

The information was passed to her by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, Domingo said.

"If possible, intelligence officers and enforcement monitoring units are instructed to be extra vigilant in monitoring photographic equipment," Domingo said in her memo.

According to the information received by the bureau, al-Qaida has trained its operatives to take pictures of potential targets.

Aside from suspects with camera equipment, immigration agents were also told to be on the lookout for al-Qaida members using altered or fraudulent Colombian passports. *Norman Bordadora*

Australians warned against local travel

By Norman Bordadora

AUSTRALIANS have been warned by their government against being "too friendly with locals" in Metro Manila, especially Makati City.

"Visitors should not accept offers of food, drink or transportation from strangers," read an advisory posted on the Australian Embassy's website.

The advisory was said to have been issued earlier this month, but a copy of the security alert became available on the website only last week.

Much of the warning had been based on reports about criminal gangs that drugged, and then robbed, tourists.

The embassy was apparently referring to the latest case against the Ativan Gang. A Korean diplomat had fallen victim to the petty thieves and died although, according to a gang leader, the death was accidental.

"There are also reports of taxi drivers who extort money from passengers," the notice added.

To protect themselves from rogue taxi drivers, Australians were advised to deal, whenever possible, only with car rental agencies and accredited taxi operators.

"Visitors should be met at airports, use hotel transportation or (employ) taxi booking services," the embassy said.

Australians were further warned to "skip boat rides in the provinces."

The embassy pointedly cautioned against trips to Mindanao, specifying Sulu, Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, North Cotabato, Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat, and rural areas in South Cotabato.

"Any travel to Mindanao is best taken in consultation with local government or business contacts... Australian travelers should follow any security advice given by local authorities," the advisory read.

Better still, it said, "Travelers are strongly advised to seek information from the Australian Embassy before travel."

"Australians should be alert about the dangers of kidnapping throughout the Philippines," it added, including Manila and particularly mentioning Palawan, "where the American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham were abducted." *With Roy de Guzman, contributor*

Total shutdown of Diwalwal mines begins today

By Ayan C. Mellejor and Anthony S. Allada
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—It's clear and final.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) regional office is set to post the notice of total closure, starting today, of the Diwalwal gold rush area in Monkayo, Compostela Valley.

Individual miners will be served copies of the notice.

Policemen will be dispatched to guard the gold tunnel entrance to make sure no one enters until new contracts to operate are granted.

MGB regional director Ma. Luisa Jacinto said the miners would be briefed on the government's action plan within the emergency period seen to last for three months, or until Nov. 11.

Jacinto said total closure would give the Technical Working Group (TWG) a chance to conduct an inventory on the available facilities, and identify the "real small miners."

Some members of the technical group, which is headed by MGB's director III Constancio Paye, were deployed to Diwalwal yesterday.

Based on the TWG's General Action Plan, service contracts, or mining permits, would be issued from Sept. 4 to 9, to representatives of an estimated 7,000 small-scale miners. This would mark the resumption of mining operations. Prior to this, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources would forge a Memorandum of Agreement with the Natural Resources Development Corporation (NRDC), its corporate arm.

Following the issuance of permits to small miners, Paye said, a public hearing would be held on Sept. 6, 9 and 11 in Diwalwal on the proposed declaration of an 8,100-hectare parcel of land as a mineral reservation area.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez earlier issued a memorandum order setting aside the 8,100 hectares exclusively for mining activities, mineral processing plants and common tailings disposal system.

After the President issues a proclamation so designating the area—hopefully on Oct. 4, Paye said—its effectivity would be on Nov. 11, targeted end of the emergency situation.

Under the conceptual framework, the NRDC would issue service contracts for small-scale mining projects to a miners cooperative. But Paye said the NRDC and the miners would have no employee-employer relationship.

Small miners could also enter into a contract with service providers without government intervention, Paye said. Alvarez earlier proposed a 60-40 production sharing in favor of the miners.

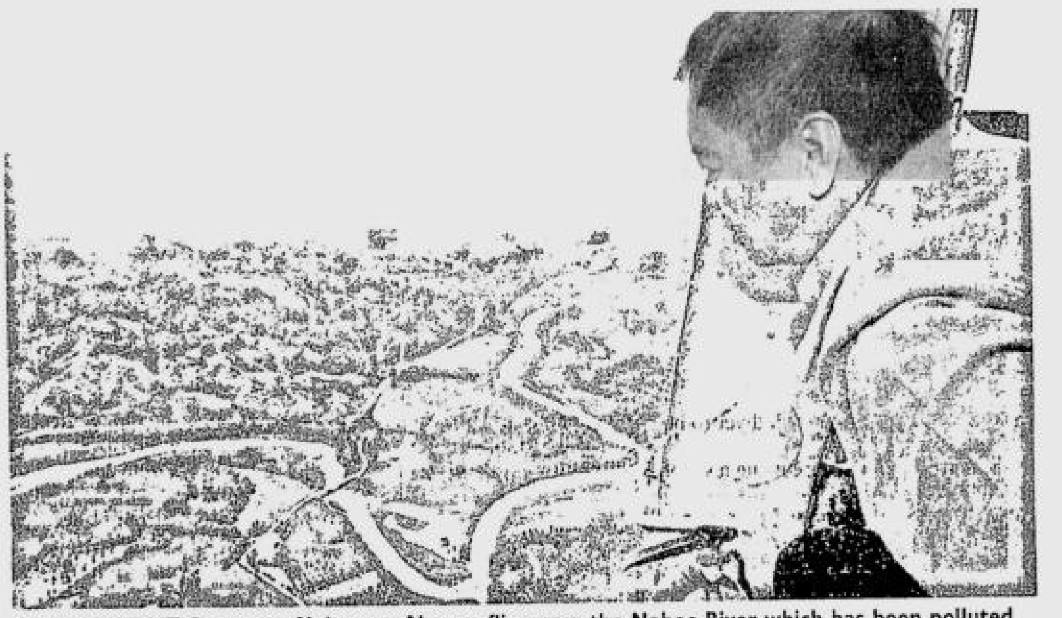
Service providers provide safety management and mine technology, machinery and other equipment for lighting, ventilation, dewatering, access or haulage, and hoisting in the tunnel.

Paye said the NRDC could also issue a project contract with a management group that would undertake the construction of the Mabatas Tailings Disposal Project and the strengthening of the existing disposal system.

While the miners were allowed to operate within the emergency period, Paye said the government had set conditions: Mining would be done only in areas presently occupied and actively mined by small-scale miners, and explosives would not be used.

The miners were also obliged to pay a two percent excise tax that would be collected by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, and a one percent royalty to indigenous peoples in the area.

Starting Dec. 2, Paye said, the government would start issuing service contracts to large-scale mining groups. And from Jan. 5 to Feb. 5, 2003, he added, the mineral processing plants would be relocated to the Mabatas area.



ENVIRONMENT Secretary Heherson Alvarez flies over the Naboc River which has been polluted by mine tailings flowing from nearby Mt. Diwalwal.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 1 OF RULE 7, JBC-009, RULES OF THE JUDICIAL AND BAR COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

Acting on the letter dated 22 July 2002 of Senator Francis N. Pangilinan, submitting for the Council's consideration and approval of the proposed amendment to Section 1 of Rule 7, JBC-009, Rules of the Judicial and Bar Council, with further amendments by Associate Justice Reynato S. Puno, Consultant, the Council Resolved to APPROVE the insertion of a paragraph to Section 1 of Rule 7, as follows:

xxx

"The interviews for the positions in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Sandiganbayan and Ombudsman shall be conducted in public. Access by the media to the interviews shall be subject to the rules that the Council may promulgate. For this purpose, the list of candidates, date and place of the interview shall be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines and once in a newspaper of local circulation in the province or city where the vacancy in question is located." (Emphasis supplied)

xxx

This amendment to Section 1 of Rule 7 shall take effect on the first day of September 2002 following its publication in two newspapers of general circulation on or before 20 August 2002.

14 August 2002.

HILARIO G. DAVIDE, JR.
Chief Justice
Ex Officio Chairman
Judicial & Bar Council

(Sgd.) HERNANDO B. PEREZ
Secretary of Justice
Ex Officio Member

(Sgd.) FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN
Senator
Ex Officio Member

ALAN PETER S. CAYETANO
Congressman
Ex Officio Member

REGINO C. HERMOSISIMA, JR.
Member

AMADO L. DIMAYUGA
Member

Teresita C. Sison
TERESITA CRUZ SISON
Member

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, August 20, 2002
20th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Ezk 28:1-10
Gospel: Mt 19:23-30

Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I say to you: it will be hard for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Yes, believe me: it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the one who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven."

On hearing this, the disciples were astonished and said, "Who, then, can be saved?" Jesus looked steadily at them and answered, "For humans it is impossible, but for God all things are possible."

Then Peter spoke up and said, "You see we have given up everything to follow you: what will be our lot?"

Jesus answered, "You who have followed me, listen to my words: on the Day of Renewal, when the Son of Man sits on his throne in glory, you, too, will sit on twelve thrones to rule the twelve tribes of Israel. As for those who have left houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children or property for my Name's sake, they will receive a hundredfold and be given eternal life. Many who are now first will be last, and many who are now last will be first."

Commentary

All religions, including Christianity itself, could be bogged down by the moralistic reward-punishment mentality. Morality is basic to leading a genuine human life. But authentic religion cannot rest itself only on observances and actions with their concomitant rewards or punishments. Discipleship in any religious tradition consists in the simple quest, or better response to the call of the Ultimate to go beyond all self-fulfillment schemes. We Christian believers fulfill ourselves by letting go of all, including ourselves, knowing that there is only one who can fulfill us, the Ultimate, who is already within us and around us in Jesus, the perfect human.

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'Church should do more for birth control'

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Instead of threatening policy makers advocating an aggressive birth control program, the Catholic Church should present alternative solutions, a population official here said yesterday.

Since the Church wants to push natural family planning (NFP) methods, said provincial population officer Luzviminda Muego, "it should support the government in terms of necessary resources for manpower training nationwide."

Because they also promoted NFP, Muego said, population program implementors had no quarrel with the Church. "But while the Church is vocal against modern methods, it has not lifted a finger to push the methods that it accepts," she said.

There is some action on the provincial level, however. Gov. Victor Agbayani and Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, former president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, recently forged a partnership for the implementation of NFP methods.

Muego said the population program did not compel couples to adopt modern methods, and instead gave them a choice.

"In taking an NFP option, couples exercise their religious convictions. Instead of threatening politicians to restrict choices, the Church should strengthen its values formation campaign so couples could make informed and principled decisions," she said. *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE: SUMMARY PROCEDURE)—Action for forcible entry and detainer—In actions for forcible entry and detainer, the main issue is possession *defacto*, independently of any claim of ownership or possession *de jure* that either party may set forth in his pleading. As incidents of the main issue of possession de fact, the inferior court can decide the questions of (a) whether or not the relationship between the parties is one of landlord and tenant; (b) whether or not there is a lease contract between the parties, the period of such lease contract and whether or not the lease contract has already expired; (c) the just and reasonable amount of the rent and the date when it will take effect; (d) the right of the tenant to keep the premises against the will of the landlord; and (e) if the defendant has built on the land a substantial and valuable building and there is no dispute between the parties as to the ownership of the land and the building, their rights according to the Civil Code. In an unlawful detainer case, the only issue is whether the defendant has unlawfully withheld possession of the premises after the expiration or termination of its right to hold possession under any contract, express or implied. Thus, when the relationship of lessor and lessee is established in an unlawful detainer case, any attempt of the parties to inject the question of ownership into the case is futile, except insofar as it might throw light on the right of possession. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Pardo, First Division, Eastern Shipping Lines, Inc. v. Court of Appeals, G. R. No. 136080, January 14, 2002]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

Montemayor sees agriculture being 'sacrificed' to tame budget deficit

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Agriculture may have to make some sacrifices in the form of a reduced allocation in next year's P804-billion budget as the government battles to tame a ballooning P148-billion deficit, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said here yesterday.

Montemayor said the department was ready to accept the "sacrifice" although it had been given an assurance that its 2003 budget would simply match this year's allocations, instead of being reduced.

The agriculture secretary, who was here to meet with local officials, was commenting on the warnings raised last week by Sen. Manuel Villar that the allocation for the agriculture department might be reduced in favor of the tourism, interior and local governments, and defense departments.

Villar, who chairs the Senate finance committee, said there was a bias against agriculture in the proposed 2003 budget.

The senator who used to chair the Senate oversight committee on the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (Afma), said the agriculture budget should have accelerated in the next two years to cope with the technical and bureaucratic upgrading demanded by the modernization law.

"But I understand the agriculture budget would be sliced (because of the budget deficit)... It's a tough budget for (President Macapagal-Arroyo), and I am certain I will have to cut it because of the budget deficit. I see a P160-billion budget deficit by yearend," Villar said.

Yesterday, Montemayor said farmers needed to be "realistic" on the issue of the new budget.

He said a high budget could have a sustained impact on currency markets, bank interest rates and inflation should it fail to compensate for the government's huge deficit spending.

"We have to realize that because of the budget deficit, we have to be more disciplined in our expenditures," Montemayor said.

He said the budget department was still fine-tuning the proposed 2003 budget measure, and had not yet offered a final allocation for agriculture.

Montemayor assured the Benguet mayors that there would be no reduction in the allocations for Afma and for the mitigation measures against the El Niño weather phenomenon in the 2003 budget measure.

He said the department's spending plan would sustain the minimum Afma allocation of P20 million a year.

"We have also released P700 million this year to address the El Niño crisis," Montemayor said.

World's top judges meet on green laws before Earth Summit

BENONI, South Africa—Environmental law and international treaties are in danger of becoming mere "paper tigers" if countries do not enforce them, the United Nations' top environmental official said.

UN Environmental Program (UNEP) executive director Klaus Toepfer told reporters a two-day meeting between 100 of the globe's top judges was to start yesterday to discuss the future of laws to protect the planet, ahead of the UN Earth Summit to be held in South Africa later this month.

"Almost all, if not all, countries have environmental laws. But unless these are complied with, unless they are enforced they are little more than symbols, tokens, paper tigers," Toepfer said at a hotel in Benoni, east of Johannesburg.

"Unluckily until now, the judiciary was something like a stepchild in all these discussions," Toepfer said.

He said that at the first Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, there was no discussion or comparable meeting.

More than 500 international and regional agreements, treaties and deals were meant to cover everything from protecting the ozone layer to the conservation of the oceans and seas, Toepfer said.

But in many regards, decisions taken at the Rio Earth Summit had yet to be implemented, he added.

The judges will be discussing a set of principles, which will be known as the "Johannesburg Principles." These will be presented at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which starts in Johannesburg on Aug. 26.

Toepfer said he believed the principles would act as a guideline for judges and governments around the world to implement laws for a cleaner planet.

The meeting is also expected to chart ways of implementing laws to preserve the rapid disappearance of forests, such as those in Indonesia.

Judges plan to form a global network to promote the exchange of ideas in making sure the laws are implemented, Toepfer said. *AFP*

Donors threaten to withhold loans over Datumanong order

By Armand N. Nocum

INTERNATIONAL aid donors have threatened to cut off P15 billion in loans for key infrastructure projects all over the country.

The multilateral lending agencies are opposing a directive that Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong recently issued putting a 15 percent cap on the bid price for foreign-funded projects.

Datumanong said executives from the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation have refused to accept the 15 percent bid price limit.

Datumanong's Department Order No. 167 issued last month directed that a bid price for a foreign-funded project should not go higher than 15 percent above the approved budget for the contract (ABC) of the project.

The secretary said that while it was rare for bid prices to fall below the ABC, often bids would exceed the ABC by more than 20 percent, even edging toward 30 percent.

He said the absence of a clear-cut cap on the bid price could lead to corrupt practices among those implementing such overpriced projects.

In such cases, the cost overruns are shouldered by the government, which is obliged to put up counterpart funds for the projects.

Datumanong said that since he issued the directive he has been getting adverse feedback from the multilateral lenders.

"They said we must not put a cap on the project cost as it would affect international rules and that it was possible they would cut off the loans," Datumanong said.

He explained that foreign lending agencies do not place a limit on the amount that the bidders put for a project.

But Datumanong is standing his ground, saying the move was "beneficial to us, but it may not be beneficial to them because, after all, we are paying them whatever is the loaned amount."

He said the foreign banks are against the cost cap because "they want to encourage the best construction company to participate in the project."

Deputy Speaker claims fraud, seeks voiding of Iloilo City SK elections

DEPUTY Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez has asked the Department of Interior and Local Governments to nullify the results of the recent election for the Sangguniang Kabataan presidents in Iloilo City claiming that the voting had been attended by fraud and vote-buying.

Gonzalez, who represents Iloilo City in the House, said he was aghast at the SK elections in the city where teenage voters were reportedly paid P3,000 for their votes.

He said the young voters, who ranged in age from 15 to 17, were even bused, housed in hotels and virtually placed under detention to ensure that their votes would go to certain SK candidates.

He asked the DILG to conduct a nationwide investigation, saying he believed elections in other areas were also attended by the cheating and vote-buying characteristic of adult politics.

"We have already corrupted the children," Gonzalez said.

He said the parents of some SK candidates had connived with unscrupulous DILG officials to influence the voting.

"They want their children to win because then they will be sitting in the council," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said 50 SK chairs in the city have signed a resolution complaining about the "serious irregularities."

They asked that the election for SK presidents be nullified and a new one held to be supervised by the DILG Manila.

They accused the Iloilo City DILG of "fomenting the anomalies," and of bias and of manipulating the election.

Seven SK officials per barangay were elected last May 14 along with the barangay officials. The elected SK chair sits in the barangay council with voting power. Iloilo City has 180 barangays.
Juliet Labog-Javellana

Pugad Lawin anniversary marked

THE NATIONAL Historical Institute has announced the program of activities for the commemoration on Friday, Aug. 23, of the 106th anniversary of the Cry of Pugadlawin in Barangay Bahay Toro, Proj. 8, Quezon City.

The event commemorates the day 106 years ago when Katipuneros led by Andres Bonifacio gathered at the site to tear up their *cedulas* to signify their defiance of Spanish colonization.

Officials from Malacañang, the Quezon City government, the NHI and the Pugad Lawin Phil. will lead the parade, flag-raising and wreath-laying rites and commemorative program to start at 6.00 a.m.

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano R. Belmonte, Jr., NHI head Dr. Regino P. Paular, Vice Mayor Herbert R. Bautista and a representative from the Office of the President will lead the flag-raising and wreath-laying rites.

Paular will give an inspirational message while Belmonte will deliver the keynote speech.

PASEGURUHAN NG MGA NAGLILINGKOD SA PAMAHALAAN
(GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM)
Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila 1308

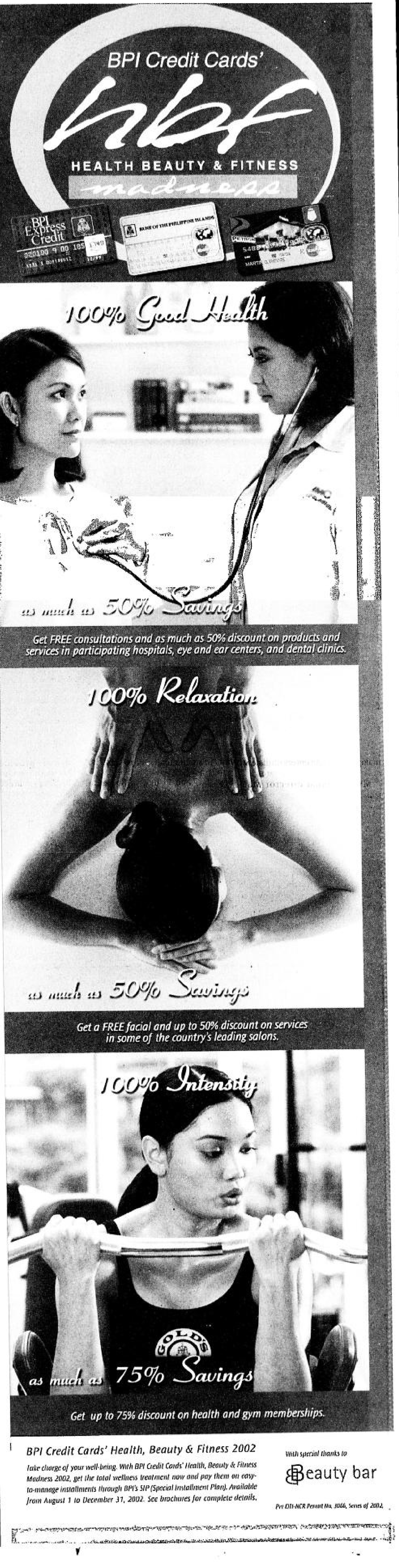
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby warned that fake Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) checks are being encashed and/or circulated to buy goods by a syndicate purporting to have been issued said checks from the GSIS Head Office or any of its Branch Offices. The fake GSIS checks have the following features:

1. The paper used to print the check is not of the same quality as that which the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas produces for the GSIS.
2. The serial numbers are not within the serial number series assigned to the GSIS by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the official printing agency of the GSIS.
3. The number used as the terminal number or last digit of the account number of the check is not correct.
4. The color used (light green) is inconsistent with the official colors used by the GSIS for its loan and pension checks.
5. The payees appearing in the checks are not bona fide GSIS members or retirees.

Accordingly, the public is therefore reminded to be very careful in scrutinizing checks supposedly issued by the GSIS and is likewise discouraged from rediscounting checks. The GSIS will not be answerable or responsible for any transaction involving spurious checks.

(Sgd.) **WINSTON F. GARCIA**
President and General Manager



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EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

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Roco's replacement

EDITORIAL

NOW the President's choices for the replacement of former Education Secretary Raul Roco have been narrowed down to two educators. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that the candidates are "not political persons." Which is fine, because we do not need to have as secretary of education a politician who might use the office to promote his political ambitions.

Among the candidates mentioned for the post are former Education Undersecretary Nilo Rosas; Emmanuel Angeles, the chief executive officer of the Clark Development Corp. and former president of the Angeles University Foundation; former Education Secretary Alejandro Roces; and Edilberto de Jesus, president of the Far Eastern University.

Rosas, who is better known as the official who used to announce the cancellation of classes when there were typhoons or floods, is well qualified for the position. But he does not enjoy the prominence of a Roces, or of a Solita Monsod who was earlier said to be among those mentioned for the position. Also, he may be on very chummy terms with the Department of Education officials who need to be subjected to strict discipline, especially insofar as the matter of corruption is concerned.

Angeles has said that he would prefer to stay at the CDC. He seems to be doing all right at Clark. Under his watch the CDC has launched 75 new projects involving a total investment of P46.27 billion over a five-year period. But if he is finally chosen, he might make a good education secretary, based on his record in the AUF which he transformed from a technology institute into "a center of excellence," a category created by the Commission for Higher Education.

Roces, who was secretary of education during the term of President Diosdado Macapagal in the 1960s, would be a good replacement, except that he is getting on in years and may not be up to the physical demands of the job. The post of secretary of education can be a stressful job, given that he has to oversee all the schools in the country. But if a septuagenarian like Blas Ople, who is 75, can be appointed to foreign affairs, why not Roces to education even if he is 78?

De Jesus was associate dean of the Asian Institute of Management before his appointment to the FEU presidency. He also served as deputy peace commissioner and presidential adviser on rural development in President Corazon C. Aquino's Cabinet. He is a quiet, low-key person who would make a good education secretary.

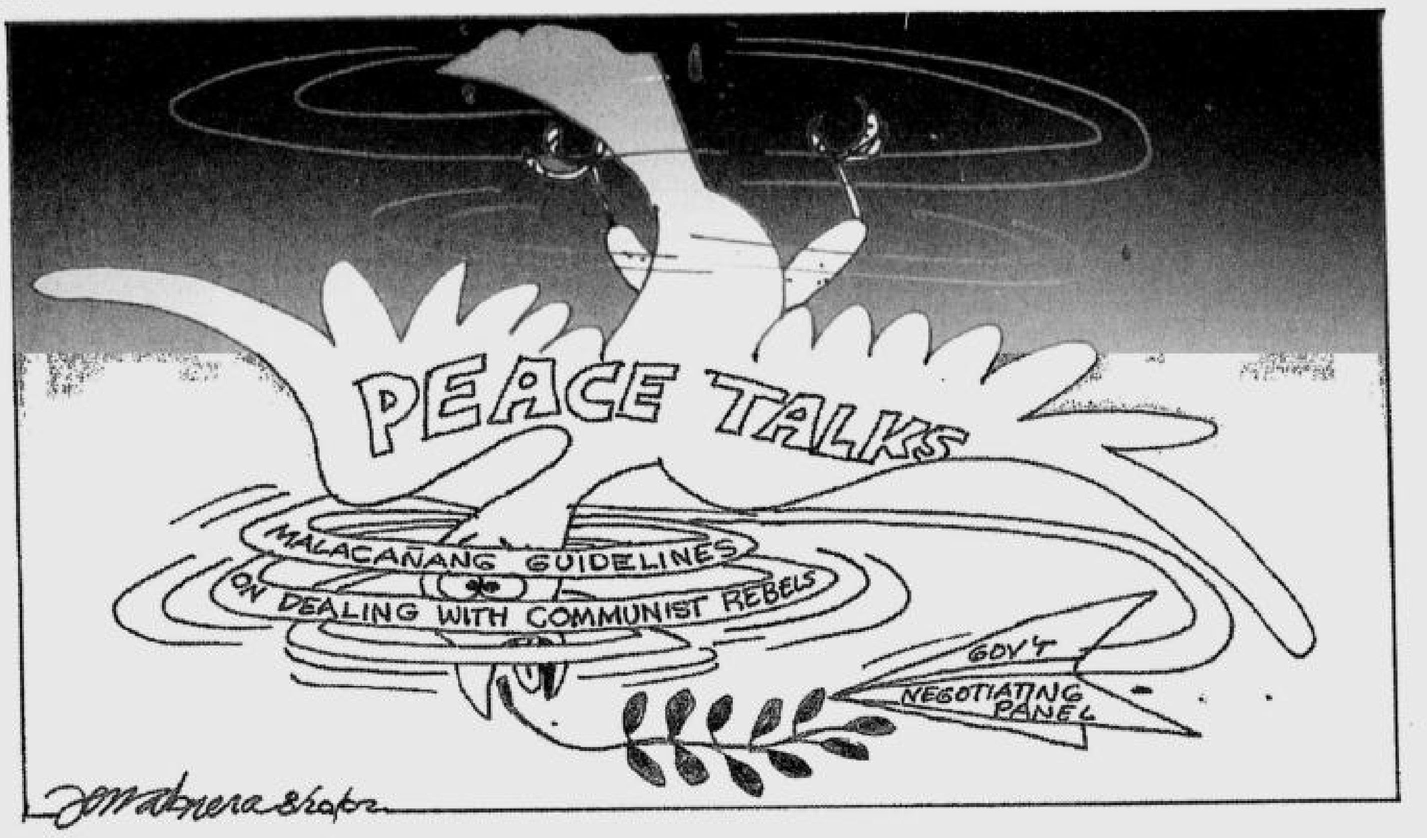
Whoever is appointed, we would suggest that he continue the reforms started by his immediate predecessor, Roco. The new secretary will have to closely monitor and constantly review the controversial Basic Education Curriculum which, according to some educators, is showing some promise in improving secondary education.

The new secretary will have to continue to curb corruption in the department. Because of the steps taken by Roco, the department was able to buy textbooks and other teaching materials and equipment cheaper. The new procurement system has been cited as a model by local and international organizations.

Roco also stopped the collection of fees for the processing of teachers' salaries. The new secretary of education would do well to continue to prohibit the collection of such fees. Teachers are among the lowest paid government employees; they cannot afford to suffer a reduction in their salaries to pay fees to employees whose job, in the first place, is precisely to expedite the payment of their salaries.

The new education secretary has to have a sense of mission and a clear idea of what he has to do to improve the state of education in the country. Admittedly, he will have a short time—less than two years—to do his work before the Macapagal administration bows out and a new one is elected.

The education department will have to work overtime to meet the challenges and demands of the times. The department is dealing not only with the present but is preparing millions of young people for their work and life in the future. This is a Herculean job that calls for total dedication and utmost exertion by education officials, starting with the secretary of education.


PEACE TALKS
MALACAÑANG GUIDELINES ON DEALING WITH COMMUNIST REBELS
GOV'T NEGOTIATING PANEL
Jomabrera Shoko

The mysterious Meritec report on CBK project

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE HONESTY and integrity of Energy Secretary Vince Perez are now under a cloud of doubt regarding a controversy-ridden contract about which he had nothing to do.

The Impsa contract for the rehabilitation of the Caliraya-Botokan-Kalayaan (CBK) power plant complex was merely inherited by Perez from the Ramos and Estrada administrations. Perez had no hand whatsoever in the making of the Impsa deal. But ironically, this deal can unmake Perez.

When the media exposed the alleged anomalous payments by the National Power Corp. to Impsa amounting to over $50 million for works whose completion is in doubt, Perez ordered an independent audit to verify the reports. Meritec Ltd. of New Zealand, a world leader in engineering consultancy and power plant design, was commissioned by the Department of Energy (DOE) to make the audit. The DOE reportedly paid $26,500 for Meritec's services.

Meritec submitted its report last month. Perez subsequently issued a press release saying, in sum, that Meritec found the payments to Impsa justified.

However, the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) claimed, in its recent series of articles on the power sector, that "the DOE has so far not made public all of Meritec's findings on the CBK."

Singling out Impsa as "a showcase of all that is wrong with IPPs (independent power producers)," the PCIJ highlighted ticklish issues that Perez never mentioned in his press statement. Among other highlights from Meritec's findings, the PCIJ reported that "Napocor has paid Impsa more than $50 million for the first 18 months of its operation even if the Argentine company had so far invested only $9 million to rehabilitate the (CBK) plant."

Perez was silent on the matter of overpayment. He was similarly silent on other sensitive information contained in the PCIJ series, purportedly lifted from the Meritec report.

Perez did not comment either on the reported contrary opinion of Napocor's corps of engineers to Impsa's claim that the Kalayaan portion of CBK was in "precarious condition" and in need of "immediate and extensive rehabilitation."

Likewise, Perez did not touch on the allegation that Impsa offered to undertake CBK repairs for free but was later paid exorbitant fees for dubious patch-up claims. Perez's silence on these controversial issues is deafening.

Last month, shortly after it was announced to the media that Meritec had completed its report, Sen. Sergio Osmeña, in a letter last July 23, requested Napocor officer in charge Rolando Quilala for a complete copy.

Quilala submitted to Osmeña a 15-page document, titled "Evaluation of Completion Status of Kalayaan I and II, CBK-BROT Project" which was purportedly the complete report of Meritec's independent audit.

Osmeña was not satisfied with the document submitted by Quilala. Osmeña then wrote Quilala, noting: "I have noticed that the Meritec report furnished me did not address certain items in the scope of audit agreed upon by Meritec and Napocor. There was no specific mention in the report of the impact of any early completion and non-completion in the payment of capital recovery fees. Likewise, the estimate of how much was already spent by Impsa-CBK Corp. during the time that the respective Certificates of Completion for Kalayaan Units I and II were issued, was not mentioned. Therefore, I remain concerned over persistent rumors of anomalies on the CBK project, and intend to call for a Senate inquiry and question all parties under oath to get to the truth of the matter."

Osmeña asked Perez to "kindly confirm whether the documents furnished by Mr. Quilala are the full and complete report(s) submitted by Meritec on the subject matter." Perez never answered Osmeña's letter.

The PCIJ series bolstered doubts that the Meritec report, which is now a public record, is not the full Meritec report.

Question: Is the Meritec report submitted to Osmeña—which served as basis for Perez's claim that payments to Impsa were justified—the full report of the New Zealand firm? Or is it just a part of the report? Is there in fact a two-part report?

Perez can choose to answer that now, or he can keep us in suspense by waiting for the Senate committee to summon him and ask him to answer the questions under oath. If parts of the report were withheld by Perez, he sure would have a lot of explaining to do.

If parts of the report were suppressed, there surely must have been something, or many things, in there which Perez—or whoever directed him to hide those portions—don't want us to know.

Like we said at the beginning, Perez had absolutely nothing to do with the Impsa contract. If he's engaged in a cover-up, he is surely doing it to cover somebody else's ass.

We've got news for him: it's his own ass that will get burned if he persists in hiding the truth which, sooner or later, will get out anyway.

But Perez can always save his own ass by telling the truth.

So, was the Meritec report released by DOE/Napocor the full report, or was it just a part of a report?

Speak up, Mr. Secretary.

* * *

CORRECTION: In yesterday's column, titled "Anding Roces is GMA's first choice," there was a portion that read: "The tract of land beside the Bonifacio Monument, worth at least P10 million..." The correct amount is P108 million.

Singing in the rain

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

COMPLETELY serendipitously, I saw a couple of musicals last week whose inspiration owed to an article in the past.

Bienvenido Lumbera wrote "Hibik at Himagsik nina Victoria Lactaw" after seeing a poem in El Heraldo Filipino, dated Feb. 17, 1899, protesting the rape of Filipino women by American soldiers. The American Occupation would have barely begun by then, the first shots having been fired only early that month. The poem was signed by nine women, all the names being nom de guerre, as was the custom with the Katipunan. The first name was Victoria Lactaw. Bien's musings about what the women might have been, how they became revolutionaries, and how they dealt with love and war, gave birth to "Hibik."

"Alikabok" was inspired by Juan Luna's painting, "La Bulaqueña." The painting shows a very young girl, hands folded on her lap, her face a tapestry of innocence and sadness. The musical weaves a tragic story around her, a story of doomed love. But like all tragic stories, it also speaks of triumph, of a young girl's awakening to the stirrings of personal love and to grander upheavals of love of country. Like "Hibik," "Alikabok" is set before the turn of the last century, but deals with the Katipunan's war against Spain instead of America.

Both musicals are return engagements, both originally played last year to very good reviews. I did not see the originals, and so have no way of comparing them with today's versions, but those who did so say with much conviction that today's versions are an improvement—they are more polished. In the case of "Alikabok," the rewriting of some parts has apparently tightened the play's structure. I myself can say confidently that both are worth braving the rain and floods, which are plentiful these days, to see. They are still playing throughout this week, "Hibik" at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater in UP and "Alikabok" at the Music Museum.

I am particularly elated by both plays for several reasons. First, their resurrection or evocation of a heroic chapter of our past, a period steeped in heroism and sacrifice, in physical defeat and moral victory, should help remind the youth of today in particular that we do have a past, and quite a storied (in every sense of the word) one at that. Musicals are probably the best, if not the only, thing we have left to connect with the MTV generation, one that hears images and sees music. "Alikabok" explicitly makes a pitch in that direction. It begins with a couple of *balikbayan* newlyweds who revisit an ancestral home in Bulacan, and discover more than what they bargained for. They discover an inheritance, in more ways than one—a house that's worth a fortune and a history that is worth so much more. Nice touch, and one the younger audiences should be able to sync with.

Second is the musicals' affirmation of something we've always known all along but have taken pretty much for granted. Which is that this is a country of boundless musical talent. I said before that I wasn't surprised that we produced Cecile Licad and Lea Salonga, who stormed the world with their awesome musical abilities. You want to make it to the top as a musician in this country, you can't just be good or excellent. Good is something you hear in street corners, excellent is something you hear in bars and hotels. You have to be brilliant. That's how tough the competition is.

The people involved in these musicals are clearly so. Ryan Cayabyab wrote the music for "Alikabok" and Lucien Letaba for "Hibik," and both brought magic to the world. Letaba's music hews more to the *kundiman*, in keeping with the spirit of the zarzuela, but it is one that soars and lilts and not just sobs and sighs. Ryan Cayabyab's is more modern, aided in no small way by Noel Balmaceda's street language, which is more closely allied to the Webber-Rice musicals. The singers, ah, they are a joy to behold.

Michelle Montero, a veteran of *zarzuela* and opera essays the lead role in "Hibik" with much passion and verve, as do the other actors. Enough to stoke to a lively flame the embers of patriotism in the heart. I understand that after "Hibik," Montero will be flying to Singapore to appear in "Carmen." I don't know in what capacity, but she would do great justice to the lead role there. She has fire in the belly. "Alikabok" boasts of formidable talents, many of them having already carved a niche for themselves in acting and singing. But the real discovery there is Cris Villongco.

For one so young, she sings—and acts—with incredible maturity. You'll be at pains to find a, well, false note in her performance. She has one of the most expressive voices I've heard in a long time (and I listen to opera as much as to rock and jazz), and she fills her solos in particular with much emotional depth and resonance. But more than anything else, she has control, which is the supreme gift of the artist, and sure sign of maturity. This girl is special. "She'll be the next Lea Salonga," I told proud grandmother Armida Siguion-Reyna. Well, she has already sung in the Vatican (the Jubilee song) and appeared in Time as a Hero for the Planet, so that's not really going out on a limb.

And finally, well, it's good to know that in these rain-soaked and flood-stricken times, when money is hard and life even harder, when 19 percent of the population is threatening to leave the country, that theater is alive and well and thriving in this country. There's been a spate of very fine offerings lately by various theater groups, Repertory, Actors Guild, Dulaang UP, Peta, which is enough to believe, or hope, that the Filipino spirit is truly indomitable, if often perverse.

The Filipino doesn't just laugh to not go berserk. He sings too, beautifully.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

US coercive hand in ICC issue

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE INTERNATIONAL Criminal Court (ICC), which was created by some 120 nations in 1998 to try individual perpetrators of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, has been in the news in recent weeks, for controversial reasons. As former Solicitor General and now UN Law Commission member Raul Goco pointed out, the ICC, which was created by a diplomatic conference in Rome in 1998 with 120 approving votes, 7 negative votes and 21 abstentions, was initially ratified by 10 countries on April 11, 2002. This number has swelled to 77 countries as of the last count—17 more than the 60 required for the Rome statute to be enforced.

* * *

This is where the complication came in. The United States, then under President Bill Clinton, was one of the 120 countries that created the ICC, but Clinton did not endorse it to the US Senate for ratification. When President George W. Bush came into power, he not only did not endorse it, he withdrew the United States' signature in the ICC's creation. Moreover, over the past three weeks since the ICC statute was enforced, the United States has campaigned hard to prevent other countries from ratifying it, employing all the conceivable pressure tactics as only the world's superpower can.

The Bush administration is fighting the ICC as it fears that American nationals abroad could be subjected to harassment before the ICC by being denied the procedural protection to which all Americans are entitled under the US Constitution, such as a trial by jury. The United States is particularly worried about the fate of its peacekeeping forces abroad, now numbering over 9,000 in nine countries.

* * *

Goco pointed out that the Philippines is also a signatory to the creation of the ICC, but now that it is up for ratification in the Senate, the Macapagal administration seems to be in a bind. Evidently it's weighing the hard-line US campaign against the ICC. I queried Senate President Franklin Drilon about the ICC, and he replied that the Senate cannot act on the ICC since the matter has not yet been forwarded by Malacañang. Drilon said that he is for ratifying it and he does not see much problem getting the Senate to ratify it. It's evident that the problem is the Palace, which could still be sorting out its options in the light of its avidly pro-American policy.

* * *

In a speech before the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines recently, Vice President Teofisto Guingona recalled that when he was still in the DFA, he had recommended to President Macapagal the ICC treaty's transmittal to the Senate. He felt that the Philippines should welcome having a permanent ICC especially since "it will help ensure that if member states fail to prosecute, the ICC can." Until the ICC's creation, only ad hoc tribunals with limited jurisdiction have tackled the war in the Balkans and genocide in Rwanda. Guingona's recommendation was not acted upon.

Goco has pointed out that the Philippines would be reduced to the status of a mere observer at the ICC if the Senate fails to ratify the treaty. Interestingly, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople issued a statement after his assumption of office recommending ratification, but since then he has been quiet about it. Was he ordered to keep quiet?

* * *

Those following the ICC issue cannot recall a time when the United States has been as coercive with the rest of the world. I suppose the US stand becomes understandable after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, which forced it to make very strong moves against countries perceived to be helping international terrorism.

After months of intense lobbying, the United States was able to force the UN Security Council to grant a one-year exemption for American peacekeepers from prosecution by the ICC. This concession, however, was small comfort, for originally it was bargaining for blanket immunity for Americans overseas to be automatically renewed yearly.

* * *

In addition, the United States has asked individual countries to pledge not to extradite Americans for trial, but so far only Romania and Israel have signed up. But the United States did not stop at a verbal campaign. The US Congress recently passed a bill authored by the House majority whip, Texas Republic Rep. Tom DeLay, and signed into law by Bush, which threatens countries that will ratify the ICC statute with withdrawal of US military aid, including education, training and financing of the purchase of equipment and weaponry. Since then, US diplomats have swung into action, serving the warning on all the countries. This law is bound to have far-reaching effects as there are few countries that don't receive US aid one way or the other.

* * *

Vice President Guingona pointed out in his Focap speech that that $387 million was earmarked for foreign military assistance and that the Philippines was allocated $30 million as an emergency requirement, as defined in the United States' "Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act" of 1985, as amended. But he also pointed out that the new anti-terrorism law authored by DeLay provides that no US military assistance may be provided to the government of a country that is party to the ICC's ratification. Interestingly, however, the new law, adjusting to reality, also contains a list of foreign countries to whom the US president may continue to grant military assistance despite this prohibition, if American interest so dictates.

Guingona notes that the countries on this waiver list include a Nato country member, Japan, Jordan, Argentina, South Korea and Taiwan, but the Philippines is not there. What he is saying is that there has been so much to-do here about US aid, but if we ratify that ICC statute, we would be excluded from that aid. This appears to be the Macapagal administration's dilemma.

In the whale's belly

YOUNG BLOOD

Irene Angway Bakisan

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

A FAMILY affair made us decide to go to Cavite. Since my uncle, who was driving, was not very familiar with the streets of Manila, we started from Baguio at about 4 p.m. We reached Manila at about 11 that night.

The pleasure of seeing the beauty of the capital at night was marred by the presence of vultures waiting for innocent prey. A police car stopped us (I have its plate number written down, in case anyone is interested). But the policemen couldn't cite any traffic violation. They looked over our papers for about five minutes and couldn't find anything to throw at us. They had to let us go.

But as our vehicle started to move away, the police siren sounded again. Finally, they had noticed an infraction of traffic regulations: the light bulb for the plate number was busted.

Knowing that we were in a hurry, the policemen suggested a quick solution to our problem. My uncle immediately agreed. Poor uncle, he bit the bait that would bring us more pain. How I wished I could intervene. But my elders wanted to smoothen things out soonest.

That was our first mistake. You should never trust policemen who cannot say why you are being stopped in the first place. I knew it wouldn't be the first and last time.

Seconds after we left the first group of policemen, a second group stopped us. This time they asked my uncle if he knew his way around. My uncle told them honestly that he did not. One of the policemen offered to serve as our guide. Fearing another delay, my uncle agreed.

It was our second mistake. My uncle accepted the offer of help without knowing exactly what he was getting into. I wanted to warn him, but sensing my distress, he said in our dialect, "Never mind. It's better than being stopped by another group."

I noticed that the policeman who had volunteered to guide us had his name covered with the chaleco of somebody from the Metro Manila Development Authority. Obviously he didn't want to be identified. Less than five minutes after we resumed out trip, he was demanding payment for his services. He directed my uncle to follow the road until he saw the toll gate pointing the way to Cavite.

What a night! Being unfamiliar with the streets of Manila myself, I could not tell which streets we were passing, but I was quite sure we were on Edsa.

Hardly had our "guide" gotten off our vehicle when another policeman in a motorcycle stopped us. I was boiling mad, but my relatives told me to stay cool. They knew no amount of pleas or explanations could get us out of the situation unless we could produce proof that we were relatives of the President or something like it. We were inside a whale's stomach and we could only wait till the whale belched us out.

By this time, I already knew we were being victimized by a syndicate. What made me really mad was the realization that these people were victimizing the same citizens who were paying their salaries. I have seen how they had been doing "*kotong*" on TV. I always felt sorry for their victims, but I never thought we would ever become the victims ourselves. Truly, this kind of policemen destroy the entire police force. I know there are still policemen whom people can trust. But the question is, how do we distinguish them from the wolves in sheep's clothing?

Now I understand why there are people who would rather trust criminals than the police or why there are people who take justice into their hands. The police very often fail us and victimize us.

It took us about an hour to get through the big city and it cost us P1,500 in payoffs to the police. How many other citizens did that syndicate victimize that night? There must have been quite a number. There were many people like us coming from the provinces that night. We were going to Camp General Castañeda in Cavite to attend the graduation ceremonies at the Philippine National Police Academy.

Irene Angway Bakisan, 25, is a high school teacher in Mountain Province.

Who does the Church speak for?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THREE women from an urban poor community, all of whom had undergone tubal ligation, were interviewed on why they chose to avail of this permanent method of contraception. Well, they said, they had tried all sorts of temporary family planning methods and encountered problems with each one. But were they aware that the Catholic Church frowned upon most methods of family planning—tubal ligation included—and approved only of natural family planning?

"Ask the priests," one of the women said, "where they were when my husband would come home drunk and insist on having sex, even if I was tired and afraid of getting pregnant? Where were they when I could barely feed my family, and when I had to borrow from all my neighbors just to be able to pay the *comadrona* to deliver my youngest?"

Most women and men aren't that belligerent, but when it comes to family planning, public opinion has fallen firmly on the affirmative side. Surveys have shown that 40 percent, or almost half, of all married women of reproductive age practice some form of family planning. Another 20 percent of couples say they want or need to practice family planning but for some reason, they haven't been able to. When this 20 percent with "unmet need" are asked why they don't use contraception, their reasons ranged from fear of side effects or lack of knowledge about how most modern contraceptives work, to the high cost of certain methods (such as pills, condoms or injectables), or simply lacking the time or inclination to visit the health center for family planning counseling or supplies.

"Resistance from spouse or family" is another reason cited by non-practicing couples or women. Apparently, some husbands (and in-laws) suspect that once their wives overcome the fear of pregnancy, they would then think nothing of having extramarital sex. Just as wives get narrow-eyed the minute they find a condom in their husband's pocket. "Morality" or "religion" actually rank rather low in their hierarchy of reasons for not practicing family planning. The concept of "sin" when it comes to family planning seems to apply to the possibility of infidelity, and not necessarily to the Church's opposition to contraception.

* * *

BY NOW, Filipino bishops have realized that they have lost the battle over public opinion when it comes to family planning. Most everyone agrees that a couple should have the right to decide for themselves how large or small they want their family to be, and what method of family planning they are to use.

Which is why the hierarchy has targeted for attack not the Catholic faithful, but politicians and policymakers. The bishops have used the weight of their institutional influence to intimidate lawmakers and officials, threatening a Church-led campaign against them come election time.

The case of Sen. Juan Flavier is often cited. When he left the Department of Health to run for senator, Flavier was touted to garner the highest number of votes. He was, after all, hugely popular and raked enviably high awareness ratings. But he was also a determined champion of family planning, and had even been denounced by Jaime Cardinal Sin in a prayer rally in Luneta. During the campaign, priests took to the pulpit to denounce Flavier and even reportedly organized an "anyone but Flavier" effort. Instead of No. 1, Flavier ended up fifth, although as he pointed out, "as far as I know, you're still called 'senator' if you win." Flavier ran for reelection and won last year, but the Church seemed to soften its attitude toward him. Perhaps the senator's relative silence on the issue of family planning had something to do with it. Then again, Flavier may have been deemed a lesser evil than the pro-Erap coterie.

This is the reason legislators, for one, have been loathe to include in the national budget a specific item for contraceptive supplies. And why, for so many decades now, the government's family planning program has been almost wholly dependent on foreign governments for oral contraceptive pills, injectables, IUDs, even condoms. And why it is so laughable—but infuriating, too—to hear politicians turn around and pontificate about the "imperialism" of foreign governments and multilateral agencies who fund family planning programs.

* * *

NOW the battle is joined again. Recently, a bipartisan group of legislators, members of the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD), called on the Macapagal administration to show greater political will and resolve on the family planning program. In reaction, Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, has warned these politicians that "we will remember you in the next elections. That is natural." If Quevedo had been referring only to himself and other bishops, then he was well within his rights. But he also dared speak for "the Catholic population." And since I'm sure, as a bishop and outspoken opponent of family planning, he keeps abreast of public opinion surveys on the issue, he was surely aware that he was somehow shading the truth.

Will Quevedo's threat to use family planning as an election issue succeed in cowing the outspoken legislators of the PLCPD? Or will they succeed in getting the President to listen to reason and realize she is the leader not just of the bishops and priests, or of Catholics, but of all Filipinos? And will she, as a woman leader, respect the right of other women to decide for themselves on matters of sex and reproduction?

* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

So, who really lost?

Althea Cruz

IT was something truly upsetting. By 4 p.m. on June 15, fireworks were already signaling the triumph of some candidates in our barangay. Just an hour after the polling booths had closed, the candidates already knew they won. Sure enough by 6 p.m., the count started to show they were right. My candidates had lost.

I am not someone who would normally become involved in elections. But I am a new mother and recently I have felt the need to create a better environment for my children. This is why during the recent elections, I gave up the luxury of sleep and joined my candidates in their campaign sorties despite sometimes stormy weather.

I was hopeful they would win. I was confident that we were able to convince voters that my candidates would do what they promised to do in our barangay. I was hoping the voters would feel the sincerity behind each handshake, each tap on the back. I was hoping they would appreciate the fact that my candidates braved rain, wind and flood to talk with them, while their opponents simply threw drinking parties for the voters. I was hoping people would appreciate how my candidates started—and ended—each campaign day with a Mass, a prayer and a request for blessing from the Almighty.

Composed mostly of church activists, my candidates were more than capable of rehabilitating our drug-infested barangay. Their platform said it all: partnership of the barangay and the church, war against drugs, people empowerment, livelihood programs and clean and green. Their posters declared their concern for the family. Their opponents had nothing to say about these problems.

It was the other party that still won. It was disturbing to see a party whose campaign strategy was to hold drinking sprees getting most of the votes, and alarming to know that a party led by a suspected drug lord would still run our barangay.

But from the very start, it was evident that my candidates would lose. They were too idealistic. They thought merely going around, introducing themselves and presenting their platform would convince the people to support them. They thought they could run a successful campaign without money, and that prayer would make people vote wisely.

The harsh reality is that in Philippine elections, money still does the talking. Last July 15, this was very evident. Several jeepneys rented by the other party were ferrying supporters to and from the polling place. Why were they so loyal to this party? I doubt if their candidates were able to present their platform during those drinking sessions. But of course, everyone knows the reason.

If this is the way Filipino voters decide, then woe to us come 2004. A the end of the day, it is not really the unpopular candidates who lose elections. It is us, ordinary citizens who suffer the consequences of every failed promise, every act of graft and corruption, every abuse of power.

Althea Cruz, 28, works as a communications officer in a multinational company.

The Manila Polo Club

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THERE was *talahib* throughout the length and breadth of Highway 54 and the Huks were supposedly hiding among the weeds. Assumption had just moved to Makati and Mother Esperanza was lording it over San Lorenzo. The campus had only two buildings—the administration and the college—so there was all the space to breathe in. Eventually the grade school building would be added, and in time Assumption Herran would close forever.

I don't remember how many houses there were in Forbes Park but there couldn't have been that many at the time. And since there was no Magallanes or Bel-Air or Dasmariñas, you could zoom down the two-lane highway at maximum speed.

So there was my friend Elvira holding a cigarette in one hand, smoking and driving with the other, speeding along when lo and behold who should pass us on the other lane but my sister! Needless to say, I got it in the neck. Heaven knows why of all the streets available she had to choose that one. Thankfully, I hadn't bummed a cigarette from Elvira and wasn't caught puffing away. We were probably on our way to the Manila Polo Club since there was really nothing else in Makati then. It was only later that I read that the club was originally in Pasay, but after World War II the decision was made to relocate.

At the time, the club had 500 members, more or less, and acacias already shaded McKinley Road and fire trees bloomed gleefully in the summer heat in front of the American Cemetery. If I'm not mistaken it was the summer of "Other Voices, Other Rooms" and F. Scott Fitzgerald and his angst at three in the morning. It was very difficult to feel miserable, but we gave it a good try.

I do remember that the club had the most marvellous hamburgers and chocolate milk shakes in town. (Their chicken a la Kiev was also outstanding, but then no one had heard about cholesterol yet.) This is not saying much since there weren't any other places that come to mind in so far as those two items are concerned. There may have been the Army & Navy Club on Dewey Boulevard that's true, but we used to go there when there were amateur theater performances and didn't eat. However, they did have a splendid library. (I wonder what happened to all those books.)

Now my friend Elvira had this thing with going with Jesusito, which used to make me and Johnny G, my other friend, split our sides laughing behind their backs and raising our eyebrows at everything they said. We used to think they were silly since we both found the food more interesting than anything they had to say. Johnny has since gone on to his heavenly reward after having one bottle too many, but in those days he was all of 14 years old and 5 feet tall, with freckles on his face and arms and a mordant sense of humor. I was to discover not long after that whatever it was boys and girls tell each other was certainly more interesting than hamburgers.

In my memory, we had the club all to ourselves that day (it may have been a Thursday when we had no class or maybe we were on vacation). Sitting in an empty sports lounge might not have done much good for the club's profit-and-loss statement, but it was vastly more pleasant than having a horde of 2,000 members with screaming children and harassed *yayas*. When there were other members everyone knew everyone else. This fact was thoroughly irritating since you couldn't move without some *tita* or *tito* reporting to your parents. Today of course with the multitude, you remain incognito unless you're Kris or Imee or Gretchen. Or you're surrounded by bodyguards so everybody knows you're in the government even if your face is highly forgettable.

Naturally we all know that things cannot remain the same and you can't go home again. Many years later, the club's board decided for reasons best known to them that the wide narra planks in the main lounge had to be changed for parquet. At the same time, some antique pieces, an altar table and some benches also disappeared. Who knows where they ended up? It obviously didn't bother too many people then.

Then they decided that it was a great idea to sell memberships in order to raise money. And it didn't take long before the facilities became inadequate, of course.

It seems that ever since then, every single board has this obsession with "remodeling" and "improving the facilities" by adding to the structures—just like government officials. There was even one group that wanted to totally change the appearance of the club. (If you've seen Wack-Wack, you know what I mean.)

Then still another board decided it would be a nifty idea if they built some townhouses on some empty land in order to balance the books. Well, did it? Give me a break as they say. Let's face it, we have this on-going romance with cement and it doesn't look like we're going to get over it any time soon.

So now there's an election coming up and, as Isabel W says, the whole thing is a microcosm of what goes on in the government. Just like the Palestinians blame the Crusades, I don't know whether to blame the state of the nation and that of the club on the Filipino-American War, Quezon, World War II, the collaboration issue, Marcos or what. Suffice it to say there aren't any safe havens left.

A tool for spreading gambling

IN THE LIGHT of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.'s recent plan to "flood RP with slot machines," allow me to answer the response of its public relations and advertising director to my letter, which was published last April 30.

No matter what you call a dead body—corpse, cadaver or carcass—the smell will be the same. Whether you call it Casino University or God's Little Red House of Cards, Pagcor's gaming and entertainment school is still about participating in the promotion of gambling, which is viewed by most societies, governments and religions as morally and socially objectionable.

The phrase "respected gaming and entertainment center" is an oxymoron in the mold of "living dead" and "pretty ugly." The statement saying, "The Philippines is a God-fearing country with God-fearing people (Pagcor's 11,000 employees among them)," is hopelessly faulty. People who engage in gambling activities may not be considered God-fearing for the simple reason that gambling is a blatant denial of God's role in determining the events in men's lives. It teaches its adherents to have faith in luck and luck alone.

The PR director displayed lack of candor by naming countries which have "welcomed gambling as a source of revenue" while leaving out the fact that other countries such as Denmark, Finland and Mexico have prohibited casino gambling. He also failed to realize the implications of his having described those countries as belonging to "some of the most advanced countries in the world."

We remember that the Pagcor people at one time in our recent past also proposed to bring gambling into homes and offices through online gambling on the Internet. I am merely voicing my opposition to something which is accepted by many right-thinking people as a form of deviant, addictive and destructive behavior.

I am proud to belong to the legion of "one-track-minded, tunnel-visioned" people who saw in Pagcor's proposal to put up a Casino University the telltale fingerprints of Satan.

—ANTONIO CALIPJO GO,
academic supervisor, Marian School
of Quezon City, 199 Sauyo Rd.,
Novaliches, Quezon City

Retired with clean record and rehired

THE ARTICLES of two of your paper's columnists, Neal H. Cruz and Conrado R. Banal III about the undersigned sounded very much like the columns of Philippine Star's Federico D. Pascual Jr. and Today's Alvin Capino. Apparently, all of them were fed by their "Napocor sources" with blatant lies and truth-impaired information.

The truth is that I was not dismissed or terminated in September 1997 or at any time during my employment with the National Power Corp. I retired from Napocor as vice president and general counsel with a clean record as attested to by clearances issued by the Office of the Ombudsman, the regional trial courts, the Office of the General Counsel of Napocor, the Commission on Audit and the myriad departments of Napocor. I received my full retirement benefits.

As to the alleged incidents these columnists cited, these are a rehash of old concocted issues. The alleged "memo" of former Napocor president Guido Alfredo Delgado, which they used to malign my person, was actually posted in the toilets of Napocor way back in 1997 at the height of the bidding war for the CBK Hydro Electric Power Project between the Lopez-owned First Private Power Corp. and Impsa of Argentina. The memo has since been dismissed as fake by Delgado himself.

As to the Casablanca Restaurant (karaoke) incident, a complaint on this issue filed by Ernesto Pantangco of First Private Power was dismissed by the Office of the Ombudsman on May 21, 1999 for lack of merit and basis. Succeeding cases citing this issue have likewise been dismissed by the Regional Trial Court of Pasig and the Court of Appeals.

Regarding the two versions of the CBK contract that I brought to Malacañang, this could easily be explained by the fact that on June 6, 1998, during the term of former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada, I was comparing and reviewing the two versions when then Napocor vice president Asisclo Gonzaga and I were called to Malacañang. What I brought was a draft Impsa version which, except for Schedule 11, was an exact copy of the Napocor version. Discussions and decisions were made and done in Malacañang that day. What and where did I do wrong by doing my duty?

Again, there is no truth to the allegation of Banal that I followed up personally the payments to Impsa. Perhaps due to my institutional knowledge of the project and the BROT agreement, I was consulted on how to resolve the issue, but I never took an active part in breaking the impasse over payments to CBK. Meritec Limited of New Zealand—the foreign company hired by the Department of Energy to evaluate the BROT project of CBK Power Co. Ltd.—has found everything in the Laguna plant in order. The Meritec report cleared the CBK project and thus recommended that CBK Power Co. Ltd. be paid according to the terms of and conditions of its contract with the government.

If only for the sake of allowing a man to keep his good name and for the sake of his family, especially his children, I appeal to your columnists' sense of fairness and justice in stopping the publication of column feeds that are utterly devoid of truthfulness.

I appeal to your sense of fairness and objectivity in requesting that I be given the chance to clarify or deny first the issues before they see print.

—ALBERTO L. PANGCOG,
vice president-corporate secretary,
National Power Corp.

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

This notice is for PICOP's Stockholders and Associates

We are pleased to inform you of the following:

A. The Securities and Exchange Commission issued to PICOP **a Certificate of Filing of Amended Articles of Incorporation** dated 12 August 2002.

B. On August 16, 2002, we received a letter from the Honorable Chairperson of the SEC Lilia R. Bautista informing PICOP of the SEC's en banc decision:

"1. The issuance by the Commission of the Certificate of Filing of Amended Articles granted the Corporation the privilege of extending its term to another fifty (50) years as applied for. Accordingly, such act allows the corporation to continue its existence under its original Articles of Incorporation consequently removing any break or hiatus from the expiry date to the approval of the Amended Articles of Incorporation.

2. The Corporation has complied with the requirements in effecting an extension of its term, i.e., holding a meeting where the required votes have been acquired and filing the required documents with the Commission - all done before the expiry date.

Accordingly, the approval of the Amendment even if made after the expiry date of the term of the Corporation should necessarily retroact from the date of the expiration of the original life of PRI.

3. To disallow the continued life of the Corporation will be inconsistent with the very nature of what the Commission has granted PRI which is an extension of its life. If the Commission chose to recognize only the re-start of the Corporation on 12 August 2002, the Certificate issued should not have been on the Amendment but a Certificate of Incorporation - giving birth to a new incorporation. The former corporation shall be deemed terminated and all consequences following a dissolution shall likewise take place. This to our mind was never the intention of the Corporation nor of the Commission."

The foregoing should clarify the status of our corporation.

PICOP RESOURCES, INC.

In our own words

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"TRADUTTORE, traditore!"

Imagine Pavarotti singing those words out with all passion. But no, that's not a line from an operatic aria. It's Italian for "translator, traitor!"—an expression of dismay over the inadequacies of translations.

We live in a world with more than 6,000 languages—more than a hundred in the Philippines alone—so translation is certainly important. But I'm also a firm believer in preserving original words, even after they're translated, and this applies to a range of documents, whether legal transcripts, medical records or newspaper articles.

The Italian adage explains it all: translations can never capture the full essence of the original words, and may sometimes even distort the original meanings. The nuances that are lost in translation can be very significant.

Just last week, I was teaching at the Ateneo, handling a class composed mainly of physicians who were about to be deployed under the Department of Health's "Doctor to the Barrios" program. I advised them to spend their first few weeks just picking up words.

There are so many words related to health and health care that have no exact equivalents in other languages. For example, how do you translate *usug* (and its variations, *buyag*, *nabati*), *bangungot*, *pasma*? I've written about *bangungot*, sometimes translated by medical people as "nightmare death syndrome" or "pancreatitis," terms which stray far from the meanings for *bangungot* for Filipinos.

Likewise, *pasma* is sometimes translated in dictionaries as "spasm," because that's what the Spanish "*pasma*" means, but Filipinos know "spasm" doesn't come close to the word's actual meaning, as it is used in the Philippines. I still owe one of my readers a full article on *pasma* but for now, let's just define it as the result of an interaction between metaphysical concepts of "hot" and "cold," for example, rushing this column will put my hands, if not my entire body, in a "hot" state, which means that if I wash afterwards in cold water, I risk getting *pasma*, which is characterized by hand tremors.

I've pointed out to doctors that these terms often have social contexts. Dr. Roger de la Cruz, a physician who took one of my medical anthropology classes several years back, analyzed *pasma* for his term paper, and pointed out that the ones who complain most often about this affliction are laundrywomen. He speculates that "*pasma*" is in fact an "idiom of distress," a way for your *labandera* to tell you, gently, that you're giving her too much to iron.

My point is that a doctor needs to look for the meanings in these words—in their original usage and context—to help them come to a diagnosis. It could apply as well to social research, used to diagnose social problems. When you get people to talk about their own perceptions and experiences, you will find that they actually play with words and meanings. Observing that play can itself be instructive.

I can never forget one young man whom I was interviewing in a project about adolescent sexuality. At one point, he described how males needed to constantly tell females they loved them, even if this was not true. When I asked him if this was not being deceptive, he was quick to reply, *"Hindi ko naman niloloko, binobola lang."* Note how weak the English translation is, only flaccidly capturing local gender dynamics: "I am not deceiving the girl. I am only fibbing."

Translations made in that manner, worsened by our declining standards of English, are not just acts of betrayal but of outright linguistic murder. That is why I now require my students to give me verbatim quotes, so I can check if they have misinterpreted or mistranslated the passages.

Let me move to another point. One of my students recently had her masteral thesis accepted for publication. The thesis, written in English, was a powerful piece about the lives of young women workers. A few days ago, she told me one of the reviewers suggested removing all the Tagalog quotes from the manuscript, to make the book easier to read, and to just keep the English translations of those quotes.

I was dismayed. I felt the stories of the women—told mainly in Tagalog—formed the core of the research, showing how they were transformed from shy rural girls to assertive women. For example, the workers use the word *diskarte* many times, referring to their relationships with fellow workers, and with supervisors. Taking away the original Tagalog passages would remove all these descriptions of *diskarte* and other key concepts, depriving us of a deeper understanding of how the workers are transformed.

Yet, many local books end up printing only the English translations of words or passages, deleting the original local language passages, supposedly because they slow down the reading process, or take up too much space. That tells us something about how we regard ourselves, and our people. Already writing in English, we alienate ourselves further from people by removing traces of the lowly "dialects." Even the use of the term "dialect" reflects our condescending view of popular culture. Let me repeat what I've said before: Tagalog, Cebuano, Maranao, Kanakana-ey and a hundred other languages in the Philippines are each distinct in their own right, not mere "dialects" or variations of the other.

Perhaps, too, we delete the "dialects" because we fear the words of the masses. Their discourse, often with fiercely unorthodox views about what society should be like, about how the country should be run, comes through almost alien and subversive. Now if we allowed more of the *masa* to speak, in their own words, and if we'd exert more effort to preserve those words in newspapers and scholarly books, we might realize that they too have a lot to teach us about speaking out, to the world, with our own voice, in our own right.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

Tapping into the power of the spirit

CERES P. Doyo's column on Aug. 8, "Bright little spots" brought much fresh air into the suffocating local and international news. We need more stories of hope. They lift the spirit. In times like this, opinion makers in media have the responsibility to point out the bright little spots in our country to remind us, Filipinos, that hope is alive if only we tap into the innate goodness of the human spirit.

In saying this, I am not about to close my eyes to the political, economic and other dimensions of evil in our life as a nation. But, as a people, it is our historic duty to create energies of hope by never giving up on the things that matter during hard times which is acknowledging that the human spirit has the capacity to dream and transcend difficulties.

The column reminds us, readers, to tap into that power.

—FRANCIA C. CLAVECILLAS,
14-A Manhattan St., Cubao, Quezon City

Requisites of good governance

IT is not the form that matters in good governance. It is the way the government is run that spells the difference. Any form of government—democratic, republican, parliamentarian, dictatorial, monarchial, oligarchy, socialist, or communist—would be successful if the leaders subscribe and adhere to and practice the three basic tenets of good government: (1) give justice to all, (2) enforce order, and (3) maintain peace. These are the three legs on which any government should stand. And from this, economic prosperity is the natural consequence. If for nothing else, history and Pax Romana have taught us this lesson.

No one but our own government officials can decide on the practical application of how the government can dispense fair justice and keep peace and order among the citizenry. The full responsibility of good government rests entirely on these officials, not on the structure or form. We have already seen how corrupt and incompetent officials can easily subvert any system for their own selfish interests. History has shown us good and bad emperors, able and incompetent presidents, feckless and benevolent monarchs, corrupt and honest ministers. It is the man, not the crown or the title he wears, that really matters.

Seeing the kind of politicians we have, it would be dangerous for us to change to a parliamentary form of government. To do so would make it even easier for them to satisfy their rapacious appetites, since the system of check and balance will disappear. The legislative and executive functions will be in the hands of the same greedy people. They will legislate laws and enforce them for their own profit. No one will check their avarice. They can legalize their corruption.

The parliamentary form will give them the opportunity to perpetuate themselves in power, easily entrenching political dynasties within their own bailiwicks. Political warlordism will be the norm. This is also true of federalism, with the added danger of possible disintegration of the country into independent regions.

What we need are good and honest politicians. But judging from the response of our *trapos* who angrily resented the US ambassador's general observation about corruption in the country, we would sorely be frustrated. We have a saying: *"Batu-bato sa langit, ang tamaan huwag magalit." E marami din ang nagalit.* I guess the truth hurts.

In our present system of government, we can put up safeguards against bad governance by: (1) Imposing a standard set of qualifications for our elected and appointed officials, from the president down to the barangay captain; (2) Adopting a unicameral legislature whose members are elected nationwide to a six-year term; and (3) Setting standard qualifications for voters to ensure responsible and sensible votes.

In the meantime, we can only hope that we will soon find good and honest men to lead us.

—JUN PASIMIO, BF Homes, Parañaque City

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

PLO bagman accuses Arafat of corruption

JERUSALEM—A former treasurer of the Palestine Liberation Organization, who fled to London last week, accused Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat of transferring millions of dollars of international donations into a personal account, according to interviews published Sunday in Israeli newspapers.

ARAFAT

The ex-treasurer, Jawad Ghussein, 71, alleged that Arafat moved up to $8 million to his personal account every month and was aware of the widespread corruption, the newspaper accounts said.

In interviews from London, Ghussein spoke to Haaretz and Yediot Ahronot, two leading Israeli dailies. Ghussein claimed he had documents to support his claims, though none were cited in the newspaper articles.

Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo denied the allegations and called Ghussein a "thief" who had stolen $6.5 million from the PLO. Ghussein was under house arrest on theft charges, and managed to flee while receiving medical treatment, Abed Rabbo said.

Ghussein's allegations come amid strong international pressure on Arafat and the Palestinian Authority to reform a leadership that has been accused of rampant corruption since it was established in 1994.

While accusations of corruption are not new, they have not often come from Palestinian insiders. Also, the allegations have rarely been directed at Arafat personally.

The Palestinian leader has an austere personal lifestyle and displays no trappings of wealth. He is, however, known to personally sign off on even relatively small expenditures by the Palestinian Authority and the Fatah movement, which is the largest faction in the PLO.

Ghussein served until 1996 as secretary general of the Palestinian National Fund, a position that gave him oversight of PLO finances. He said he resigned to protest corruption, and claimed that Arafat was involved.

Ghussein never worked for the Palestinian Authority, the Palestinian government, and worked as a private businessman in the Gulf after splitting with the PLO in 1996.

"I found out how he (Arafat) took aid money and contributions that were earmarked for the Palestinian people to his own account," Ghussein told the Haaretz newspaper.

"The donating countries began to pressure me and to ask me questions about money that had disappeared and I couldn't give them the answers," Ghussein told the Yediot Ahronot daily.

Ghussein claimed that Palestinian authorities kidnapped him twice in the past year, but Palestinian officials said in both cases he was detained because of money he had allegedly stolen from the PLO.

Ghussein said he was first seized by Palestinian authorities while he was at a wedding in April last year in Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates, where he had construction projects. *AP*

Israel pledges troop pullbacks in Bethlehem

JERUSALEM—Israel's defense minister and a top envoy of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat agreed Israeli forces would begin pulling out of Palestinian areas to be replaced by Palestinian security, but the breakthrough after two years of clashes was shadowed Monday by opposition from the Islamic militant group Hamas.

Hamas spokesperson Ismail Haniya said his group would not stop its attacks on Israelis. The agreement that Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer and Palestinian Interior Minister Abdel Razak Yehiyeh reached late Sunday after a three-hour meeting in Tel Aviv called for "an immediate cessation of the violence."

Haniya told The Associated Press that the plan for Israeli troops to withdraw from the West Bank town of Bethlehem and areas in Gaza and be replaced by Palestinian forces who would work to prevent attacks on Israelis "is nothing but an Israeli plot to sabotage the intefadeh. The Palestinian uprising is legitimate self defense."

Israeli foreign ministry spokesperson Mark ofer called the Ben-Eliezer-Yehiyeh agreement "a glimmer of hope," but said Israel expected Arafat's Palestinian Authority to rein in Hamas and other militants.

"If the Palestinians can and will take control of the security situation we can move forward on easing the humanitarian and economic situation of the Palestinians themselves," Sofer told The Associated Press Monday. "But crucial for us is that five minutes after evacuating an area or a check post, we will not see a suicide bomber or a car bomb passing through that very area we have evacuated."

Israeli military commanders were scheduled to meet throughout Monday to determine how and when to begin the pullout. In the past, Israeli troops have waited until nightfall before moving, and they were expected to follow that practice in this case. *AP*

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Pope says good-bye to youths in Krakow

KRAKOW, Poland—As enthralled with his fellow Poles as they are with him, Pope John Paul II bade a sad farewell to young people who tried to cajole the aging, frail pontiff to remain with them.

The Pope's four-day journey home, which ends Monday with a Mass at a monastery where he used to pray with his father, has been steeped in nostalgia as he visits the places of his youth.

But some of the most moving moments have been with young pilgrims who are united in their admiration of the first Polish pope.

"Stay with us," the crowd chanted on Sunday, the third and final night of their vigil outside the archbishop's residence.

"In my heart and my mind forever," John Paul replied. Then switching to the dialect of his beloved Krakow, he said: "The farewell wish to the one who departs is, 'May you come again.' I hope that this is your wish for me."

The Pope showed an easy rapport with young people, urging them back each night until Sunday, when he said good-bye.

On the last night, he mimicked them, singing "Welcome, Alleluia," and later a few choruses of "Farewell, Alleluia."

"Unfortunately, it's the farewell meeting," the Pope said.

Standing in the crowd, 19-year-old Bozena Chojnowska said: "I don't want this to be farewell. He will come for sure, because he's as young as we are." *AP*

21 Nokor families defect

INCHEON, South Korea — Twenty-one North Koreans, believed to all be members of three families, arrived at a South Korean port Monday after fleeing their hunger-stricken communist homeland aboard a fishing boat.

"Thank you for the warm welcome," said Soon Jong Sik, 70, representing the group after their arrival at the western port of Incheon. "We prepared for this for a long time. I am from South Korea and my lifetime dream was to see my hometown again before I die."

The defectors looked healthy. They were taken away by intelligence officials for investigation and debriefing.

The 11 adults and 10 children were found in South Korean waters aboard a 20-ton fishing boat off the west coast of the divided Korean peninsula Sunday evening.

The North Koreans said they left before dawn Saturday from a small fishing village near Shinuiju, a North Korean city near the border with China, said Lt. Kim Gyung-su of the maritime police in Incheon.

Another maritime police officer, Lt. Lim Jae-soo, quoted the North Koreans as identifying themselves as members of three families. *AP*

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Floods spread through Germany

DESSAU, Germany—Flooding spread further through east Germany on Monday, leaving emergency crews scrounging for sandbags to shore up crumbling dikes as the country faced its biggest relief effort since World War II.

In Hungary, the Danube River peaked at a historic high in Budapest without causing major flooding after relief workers spent a frantic night bolstering dikes. The capital's high flood walls, built at the turn of the last century, held off the floodwater in the city center, though one barrier gave way in a northern suburb.

The Czech Republic, facing a staggering cleanup bill after nearly two weeks of devastating flooding, said Monday it was reconsidering plans to buy 24 new Air Force fighter jets. Heavy flood damage "has changed priorities for everyone," defense ministry spokesperson Milan Repka said in Prague.

Europe is wrestling with the aftermath of violent storms that swept the continent two weeks ago. German authorities reported three more deaths Monday, bringing the Europewide toll to at least 109.

Floodwaters have ebbed in Austria and the Czech Republic and also were falling in Dresden, the biggest German city hit so far, allowing the start of a massive cleanup and rebuilding operation expected to cost some 20 billion euros ($20 billion) Europewide. *AP*

Snakes kill 24 in India

PATNA, India—Deadly snakes slithered in floodwaters as 24 people died after being bitten, drowned or crushed under their crumbling houses in South Asia, where more than 25 million people are trapped by raging floods, officials said Sunday.

The new deaths—all in the eastern Indian state of Bihar—pushed to 935 the death toll since June in the neighboring nations of Nepal, India and Bangladesh, where annual monsoon floods have wreaked havoc.

"We have received some delayed reports of deaths. These include drowning, snake bites and house collapse," Manoranjan, an undersecretary at the Bihar state's Relief and Rehabilitation Department, told The Associated Press. The deaths, which occurred over the past three days in far-flung areas, bring the Bihar death toll to 300.

Rains continued in Bihar on Sunday and major rivers were flooding, he said. In the worst affected areas, army helicopters dropped food packets to marooned villages.

More than 15.5 million people have been displaced by the flooding in Bihar, where 338,000 houses have collapsed, officials said. *AP*

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2 witnesses in kidnap case cry torture

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

PALAYAN CITY—Two of three witnesses in a kidnap-for-ransom case in Nueva Ecija claimed that policemen tortured and forced them to sign a false testimony in the case that implicated a vigilante group and a police colonel.

State Prosecutor Phillip Kimpo, during the almost four-hour hearing on Thursday here, told the court that Miguel de la Cruz, Elias Mingoy and Paul Curitana had turned "hostile witnesses" in the case.

De la Cruz took the witness stand more than two months after the police considered him missing in June. Out on bail on a case of illegal possession of firearms, De la Cruz is considered the principal witness in the kidnap-for-ransom case involving Arthur Serna, a Department of Environment and Natural Resources official in Aurora province.

Serna is accused of hiring the Red Vigilante Group to abduct and kill Julio Alejo, a forester, and his son Julius last October.

Described by the police as a "confessed RVG member," De la Cruz, in his affidavit, also said Supt. Reynaldo de Guzman, Jaen police chief, and businessman Victor Ong allegedly financed the RVG.

Right to silence

On the bidding of his counsel, lawyer JV Bautista, De la Cruz invoked his constitutional right to remain silent after Kimpo offered the May 8, 2002 statement of De la Cruz to the court.

Interviewed by the INQUIRER in the presence of his lawyer, De la Cruz said "armed men detained (him) for more than a month in Camp Olivas (the police headquarters in Central Luzon) without a warrant of arrest and without being charged with an offense."

According to him, policemen made him sign a false affidavit after he was tortured.

He did not identify the armed men who took him to Camp Olivas and the policemen who forced him to sign the affidavit.

De la Cruz also said he did not know of a certain Felipe Abrajano, his supposed lawyer. He said he did not identify De Guzman and Ong as "suspects" or "RGV supporters" or Serna as a "mastermind" in the case.

The widow of Alejo, De Guzman pointed out, paid for his P200,000 bail.

During the hearing, Judge Erlinda Pestano Buted clarified that it was not she but Judge Feliciano Buenaventura of regional trial court Branch 27 who ordered De la Cruz's release.

No warrant

On the witness stand, Mingoy said four policemen picked him up in his house in Dingalan, Aurora, last June without an arrest warrant. He claimed that the policemen tried to suffocate him by placing a plastic bag over his head, and hit him in different parts of the body.

Mingoy, a DENR employee in Aurora, did not identify the policemen who took him but said they instructed him to blame the Alejo killings on Serna and to admit that he contacted the RVG on behalf of Serna.

Kimpo said Curitana, who had declined to help in the case, did not claim torture.

Accused in murder of Javier ask court to grant them bail

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—The accused in the murder of former Antique Gov. Evelio Javier have asked the Antique Regional Trial Court to grant their petition for bail.

In a 10-page memorandum submitted to Judge Rudy Castrojas of RTC Branch 12, the accused said the prosecution "miserably failed to establish that the evidence of guilt is strong" against them.

They cited the alleged contradiction between the testimony of five prosecution eyewitnesses and that of four accused-turned-state-witnesses.

The accused said in their petition that in the testimony of eyewitnesses Rodrigo Abagat, Alejandro Maranon, Blasito Juada, Ildefonso Maquillero and Enrique Cahilig in 1988, three gunmen shot Javier at the public plaza in front of the old provincial capitol.

They identified two of the gunmen, who pursued and finished off Javier, as former Philippine Constabulary Capt. John Paloy and Vicente Vegafria.

But in the testimony of accused-turned-state-witnesses Romeo Nagales, Arleen Limoso, Jose Delumen and Oscar Tiauson in 1999 and 2000, they identified the armed men who shot Javier as Eduardo Iran alias Boy Muslim, Ramon Hortillano, Eleazar Edemne, Henry Salaver, Rolando Bernardino, and a certain Norman. They said they did not see Paloy and Vegafria during the shooting.

Former Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador, who has been tagged as the mastermind of the Javier murder, filed a separate supplementary memorandum to their motion for bail.

In his memorandum, the former deputy minister of public works and highways said the prosecution failed to prove the existence of a conspiracy in Javier's killing.

He said it also failed to prove his participation in the killing of his then strongest political rival.

The prosecution is expected to file its memorandum on the petition for bail.

The accused are facing murder, frustrated murder and attempted murder charges before the Antique RTC Branch 12. Several of them have been detained at the Antique Provincial Jail for more than 16 years.

Also facing the charges are Pacificador's son, Rodolfo, lawyer Avelino Javellana, brothers Jose and Henry Seguerra, Jimmy Punzalan and three unidentified persons known only as alias Akay, Nonoy, Totong and Dolfo.

The Canadian Court of Appeals on Aug. 1 rejected the petition of the Philippine government to extradite Rodolfo Pacificador from Canada where he fled after the killing.

Senior State Prosecutor II Leo Dacera III said the Department of Justice would file an appeal within 60 days after the ruling was issued.

The Javier trial started in 1987 but was suspended for nearly 10 years after the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) in 1989. The TRO was lifted in 1998.

WORKERS at the National Food Authority in Davao City haul imported Indian rice, which arrived in the wake of a reported shortage of supply in the city and elsewhere.

BING GONZALES

Rice shortage jacks up prices in Puerto

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—After a week of almost no rice to be purchased, local consumers are now suffering from high prices of commercial rice, the cheapest variety of which is sold for P30 per kilo for two days now.

The provincial board is set to question officers of the National Food Authority and the Department of Agriculture today as the province has experienced rice shortage for more than a week now.

Residents here were greeted by empty rice stalls at the height of Typhoon "Milenyo" while the prices of commercial rice shot up to P31 per kilo due to scarcity.

The arrival of 75,000 bags of imported rice from India last Aug. 11 did not quell the clamor for rice in the province as residents complained of its foul smell.

Despite stiff prices, residents were forced to buy commercial rice as their children refuse to eat the NFA rice.

Even rice-producing municipalities like Narra and Brooke's Point experienced shortage brought about by the two-week delay in the replenishment of the NFA supply.

Residents lambasted the decision of the NFA provincial office to sell its rice supply and not leave a "buffer stock."

NFA assistant provincial manager George Lucero admitted that they sold 65,000 bags of rice last June and July in an "open sale" to traders who have money to spend.

Lucero, however, clarified that the NFA regional office directed them to sell their palay stocks as replenishment was expected in July.

The replenishment only arrived on Aug. 11.

Based on agriculture statistics, the province of Palawan produced 4 million bags of palay last year.

Provincial agriculturist Nelson Salvador added that from November 2001 to May this year, farmers produced 35,000 metric tons of palay in Palawan.

He believed that the rice shortage experienced by the province "has something to do with private traders" who ship out rice weekly to Metro Manila, Cebu and Bacolod.

Salvador also said there is a need to regulate the shipment of rice outside Palawan.

"The big question now is where did all the surplus rice go?" he asked.

The DA received unconfirmed reports that rice was shipped out of Palawan through Brooke's Point. *Dominique Tabora, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Puerto Princesa declared under calamity state

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A P20-million calamity fund was allocated by the city council here for the rehabilitation of persons affected by Typhoon "Milenyo" after the city was officially declared under a state of calamity.

The members of the council made the decision on Friday, two days after the City Disaster Coordinating Council convened, initially identifying 15 affected barangays.

The number of affected barangays hit by the torrential rains and winds that visited the city, however, increased during the deliberation as reported by city administrator Jocelyn Dilig.

Though the typhoon never went near Palawan, it brought misery to the people, she said.

Dilig reported that numerous houses and trees were destroyed due to strong winds. Livelihoods of families were also severely affected, especially in the upland and coastal areas.

The city official said many fishermen were unable to go fishing due to big waves in the sea.

The heavy downpour and strong winds also downed farm products.

Dilig said an evaluation of the extent of the damage caused by the typhoon was still incomplete due to the bad condition of roads in the city.

In the poblacion, households suffered long hours of blackouts, as falling trees hit electric wires.

City social welfare officer Lolita Yulo raised concern over the rice shortage. Yulo said her office would not be able to contain possible requests for rice assistance with the present limited supply in her care.

The CSWD has only 30 sacks in its custody while projections of need are more than the supply. *Ruelle Albert D. Castro, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Ombudsman junks 3 of 5 graft cases vs Chavit

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN CITY—Former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson has scored an initial victory over his critics here after the Ombudsman recently dismissed three of the five graft charges that the Save Ilocos Sur Alliance filed against him last year.

The cases were dismissed last month but Sisa officials received the copies of the Ombudsman's resolutions only on Aug. 16.

In a 16-page joint resolution issued on July 22, the Ombudsman dismissed the graft charges against Singson and five Ilocos Sur officials for the alleged ghost purchase of a P9.5-million backhoe loader in 2000. Also dismissed was the technical malversation case against Singson involving P30 million from the tobacco excise tax share of the province.

The resolution was approved on July 23 by Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio Jr.

In dismissing the cases, the Ombudsman cited "lack of probable cause" in pursuing the cases.

In a separate six-page resolution issued on July 11, the Ombudsman dismissed the graft charges against Singson for the Ilocos Sur government's purchase of an alleged overpriced land for P26 million in 1998.

The Ombudsman found that there was no sufficient ground that the allegations had been committed and should be held for trial.

The resolution was approved by former Ombudsman Aniano Desierto on July 12.

The Ombudsman said there was "absence of the element of damage or undue injury to the government as allegedly caused by the transaction in question."

"Moreover, even (the) claim that an unwarranted benefit or preference was enjoyed by the supplier, Camec, is negated by the observation that the purchase actually materialized," the Ombudsman said.

On the technical malversation charges, the Ombudsman said: "This office finds merit on the argument of the respondents that the act does not give penal sanction to any defiance."

On the alleged overpriced land purchase, the Ombudsman said the complainants, led by Nestor Segismundo, Sisa president, have "failed to establish" Singson's guilt.

Singson said he expected the dismissal of the three cases.

"I was not surprised by the decision because, as I had said, the charges filed were baseless and only meant to harass me," Singson told the INQUIRER.

"I will not be surprised if the two other cases (pending before the Ombudsman) will also be dismissed."

Sisa officials assailed the dismissal of the three cases.

"This is a day of mourning for the people of Ilocos Sur and a bad omen for our country," said David Roca, Sisa secretary general.

MILF, Army trade raps over clashes

By Charlie C. Senase
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—The spokespersons of the military and of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front have accused each other of starting the recent atrocities that left one person dead and nine others hurt in Datu Piang, Maguindanao, over the weekend.

The sporadic fighting between government troops and MILF rebels from Friday to Sunday also resulted in the evacuation of at least 100 people after 40 houses were torched by withdrawing soldiers of two Army battalions belonging to the 6th Infantry Division.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu also accused the military of pounding MILF lairs in Barangays Damabalas, Reina Regente and Bakat with 105mm mortar shells and air strikes from an OV-10 fighter plane.

"They burned the houses and fled; then came the heavy (ground and air) bombardment that forced civilians to evacuate their villages," Kabalu said.

But 6th ID spokesperson Maj. Julieto Ando denied Kabalu's allegation. "This is the usual rhetoric of the MILF if their men were accused of wrongdoings."

"The MILF (rebels) themselves torched the houses, so they can blame the military," Ando said. *Charlie C. Senase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Nacorda asks House: Where's Lamitan report?

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Fr. Cirilo Nacorda said that the House Committee on National Defense should also come out with its findings and recommendation on the Lamitan siege.

"They seem so very quiet. I don't know why they are so very quiet. I did not hear any development from their inquiry," Nacorda told the INQUIRER.

The priest admitted that he was more excited about the findings of the House's report "because we requested them first to investigate deeper the reported collusion between the military and the Abu Sayyaf bandits."

Rep. Prospero Pichay, committee chair, told the INQUIRER that he would come with the report soon.

"Actually, the final draft is already finished and it's with the technical working group," Pichay said.

He said he was waiting for the committee's 85 members to sign the document before making it public.

"It's just a matter of asking them to sign the draft," Pichay said.

He vowed to find out whether the draft would be available.

Pichay said the focus would be on an earlier premise that a connivance did exist between the military and the Abu Sayyaf.

Nacorda said he was hoping the House would address the ransom issue. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

DA asked to protect local veggie industry

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

MONTEMAYOR

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Mayors in Benguet asked Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor yesterday why the government allowed the importation of Australian vegetables, which had reportedly displaced P21 million worth of Benguet vegetables intended this month for Metro Manila markets.

Montemayor admitted in a press conference here on Monday that the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) allowed the importation in July on behalf of Rustan's Supermarket and Tuckerbag Inc., a hotel supplier. But he said the official clearances for the importation covered only 3,348 kilograms of Australian carrots and 5,758 kg of assorted vegetables like lettuce and broccoli.

Atok Mayor Concepcion Balao said vegetable-growing towns in Benguet have complained to the Department of Agriculture about the "unhealthy competition," arguing that they were hit hard by the Australian imports which ate into Benguet's traditional markets.

Montemayor said last year's importation of broccoli, carrot, cabbage and other vegetables reached 303,405 kg, which supplied a demand average of 47.5 million kg nationwide.

But La Trinidad Mayor Nestor Fongwan, president of the Benguet Mayors' League, said allowing the Australian imports could have serious implications on two resolutions filed by the Benguet mayors and the regional development council (RDC) of the Cordillera last week.

Gov. Raul Molintas, RDC chair, said the RDC resolution seeks a Philippine assertion for "special and differential treatment" for the vegetable industry in applying the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

In asserting the special treatment, the Philippines and other Third World countries want a transitional period set in place that will allow these respective governments time to subsidize and strengthen vulnerable industries before they are opened to free trade with the United States, Japan and the European Union, Molintas explained.

Ironically, Fongwan noted, the Philippines is in the middle of "playing hardball" over the Australian government's treatment of Philippine commodities.

Australian authorities have instituted quarantine rules, in order to bar Philippine fruit imports.

"We should not even have imported from them because of what Australia is doing to our goods. Now we are asking for better terms (with the World Trade Organization) when we cannot even fight for our rights," Fongwan told the INQUIRER.

But Montemayor told the mayors in a meeting here that the imported vegetables now flooding Divisoria in Manila and parts of Northern Luzon had been traced to China, not Australia.

Montemayor told the Benguet mayors that the vegetable crisis could be used to reinforce the government's negotiating position in the ongoing round of talks in Uruguay on the application of GATT.

Molintas said under GATT schedules, vegetable imports should have started flooding Philippine markets only after 2004, based on the gradual reduction of tariffs mandated by the trade agreement.

Benguet Board Member Johnny Uy, a former Atok mayor, said the Macapagal administration should start looking into the vegetable crisis.

"It could stop farming, which means no one in Metro Manila will have food," he said.

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IN CELEBRATION OF BRAIN ATTACK AWARENESS WEEK

MALACAÑANG
Manila

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROCLAMATION NO. 92

DECLARING THIRD WEEK OF AUGUST OF EVERY YEAR AS BRAIN ATTACK AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS, the Stroke Society of the Philippines was organized in 1995 composed of multi-disciplinary professionals to help address the different concerns in the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of brain attack.

WHEREAS, the problem of stroke of "Brain Attack" continue to grow as one of the country's serious health problems due to the growing prevalence of certain types of lifestyle and diet, which puts the Filipino people at high risk for the disease, and eventuality will affect our national socio-economic development.

WHEREAS, the different strategies in the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of brain attack should be vigorously pursued to reduce stroke-related deaths and disability.

NOW, THEREFORE I, GLORIAL MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby declare the Third Week of every August as Brain Attack Awareness Week.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

Done in the City of Manila, this 28th day of August, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and One.

By the President:
ALBERTO ROMULO
Executive Secretary

MESSAGES

I commend the Stroke Society of the Philippines for spearheading this 3rd Congress on Brain Attack, which seeks to sharpen the skills of our people in the medical field and improve the quality of healthcare in the country. This event with the theme "Thinking Globally, Acting Locally: Guidelines in the Diagnosis and Management of Hemorrhagic Stroke," reminds all of you of the important role that you play in enabling and empowering our people. It bolsters our efforts to make the Philippine healthcare system more effective and responsive to the demands of the 21st century.

Quality of health is a crucial factor in attaining sustainable development and in winning the war against poverty. I encourage doctors and other experts in the medical field to work hand in hand to enhance the chances of our people to live healthy and productive lives. Our partnership is symbolic of our country's healing, rebuilding and development process.

I wish for the success of this event. I am confident it will result in the adoption of innovative medical techniques to promote and achieve a world-class Philippines healthcare system.

MABUHAY!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Stroke Society of the Philippines for holding the 3rd Congress on Brain Attack on August 22–23, 2002.

The Stroke Society of the Philippines has always been our ally in the fight against cardiovascular diseases, specifically stroke or brain attack. With the formal proclamation from no less than the President of the Philippines, Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal–Arroyo, declaring the third week of August of every year as Brain Attack Awareness Week, we expect to see a stronger partnership among various stockholders in the campaign against this illness.

Your theme, "Thinking Globally, Acting Locally Guidelines on the Diagnosis and Management of Hemorrhagic Stroke", captures the essence of bringing this campaign closer to the hands of caregivers and health professionals who are directly in charge of taking care of stroke patients and ensuring that they get the best possible treatment, given the available resources of our healthcare facilities.

This campaign should eventually invade the homes, the workplaces, as well as the hearts, minds and consciousness of the very people whom we aim to protect from the debilitating physical, psychological and socioeconomic consequences of this illness and empower through the promotion of healthy lifestyles as their armor against a host of degenerative diseases, strokes included.

Congratulations and *Mabuhay kayong lahat!*

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health

STROKE SOCIETY OF THE PHILIPPINES
AND
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

the STROKE SOCIETY of the PHILIPPINES

INVITE YOU TO THE

3RD PHILIPPINE CONGRESS ON BRAIN ATTACK

"THINKING GLOBALLY, ACTING LOCALLY – GUIDELINES IN THE DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF HEMORRHAGIC STROKE"

AUGUST 22 – 23, 2002,
Manila Midtown Hotel Pedro Gil St., Ermita Manila

AUGUST 22, 2002 Topic: INTRACEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE (ICH)	
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Registration
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Opening Ceremonies
9:00 AM – 9:20 AM	Anatomy and Physiology of Cerebral Circulation *Lecturer:* Dr. Jose Aguilar
9:20 AM – 9:50 AM	Pathophysiology of ICH & SAH *Lecturer:* Dr. Edwin Muñoz
9:50 AM – 10:10 AM	Epidemiology / Clinical Manifestation *Lecturer:* Dr. Jose Navarro
10:10 AM – 10:20 AM	Coffee Break
10:20 AM – 10:40 AM	Radiologic Diagnostic *Lecturer:* Dr. Danilo Lagamayo
10:40 AM – 11:10 AM	Management: Medical – *Lecturer:* Dr. Robert Gan
11:10 AM – 11:40 AM	Surgical – *Lecturer:* Dr. Eric Legaspi
11:40 AM – 12:00 NN	Rehabilitation: *Lecturer:* Dr. Alvin Mojica
12:00 NN – 2:00 PM	Lunch Satellite Symposium *(Sanofi-Synthelabo)* *Atherothrombosis is Systemic: Focus on Subsystems* *Speaker:* Ma. Teresa A. Cañete, M.D. F.P.N.A.
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Workshop *Coordinator:* Dr. Jose Navarro
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM	Dinner Satellite Symposium *(Therapharma)* *Ballroom A* *Pharmacoeconomic Issues in the Treatment of Hypertension* *Speaker:* Esperanza Cabral, M.D.
6:30 PM – 10:00 PM	Dinner / Fellowship Night – Ballroom A

AUGUST 23, 2002 Topic: SUBARACHNOID HEMORRHAGE (SAH)	
8:00 AM – 8:50 AM	Presentation of Workshop Output
8:50 AM – 9:10 AM	Epidemiology / Clinical Manifestation *Lecturer:* Dr. Joven R. Cuanang
9:10 AM – 9:30 AM	Radiologic Diagnostic *Lecturer:* Dr. Ramon Santos Ocampo
9:30 AM – 9:50 AM	Coffee Break
9:50 AM – 10:10 AM	TCD Monitoring for Vasospasm *Lecturer:* Dr. Fatima Collado
10:10 AM – 10:30 AM	Management: Medical – *Lecturer:* Dr. Johnny Lokin
10:30 AM – 10:50 AM	Surgical – *Lecturer:* Dr. Manuel Mariano
10:50 AM – 11:10 AM	Endovascular – *Lecturer:* Dr. Almazan
11:10 AM – 11:30 AM	Nursing Care in Hemorrhagic Stroke *Lecturer:* Mrs. Carmencita Lingan, R.N.
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Lunch Satellite Symposium (Therapharma) Intramuros *Dyslipidemia in Atherosclerotic CVD – The Role of Statins 2002 and Beyond* *Speaker:* Dante D. Morales, M.D.
1:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Workshop *Coordinator:* Dr. Abdias Aquino
4:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Presentation of Workshop Output
4:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Closing Ceremonies: Dr. Joven R. Cuanang

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Over All Congress Chair: Ester S. Bitanga, M.D.

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Jose Navarro, M.D.

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V. REGISTRATION:
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VII. DOCUMENTATION
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Welcome to the 3rd Congress on Brain Attack. Although the schedule for the Stroke Society of the Philippines (SSP) National Meetings are Bi-Annual, we deem it very important to hold this Congress this year to celebrate the proclamation of the Brain Attack Awareness Week on the 3rd week of August every year commencing this year. We continue to work with the Department of Health (DOH) and many health professionals who are concerned in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of brain attack. We look forward to the development of guidelines in the management of intracerebral as well as subarachnoid hemorrhage, clinical condition that have the highest morbidity and mortality among brain attack victims.

We enjoin the participation of our colleagues in this profession to participate in this important event.

JOVEN R. CUANANG, M.D.
President, Stroke Society of the Philippines

Greetings!

On behalf of the Congress Organizing Committee, I am pleased to welcome all of you to the 3rd Philippine Congress on Brain Attack on August 22 – 23, 2002 at the Manila Midtown Hotel.

The theme "Thinking Globally, Acting Locally: Guidelines in the Diagnosis and Management of Hemorrhagic Stroke" 'speaks out the Congress' main objective. We aim to achieve standards in the local setting.

In the past two Congress we have proposed that hemorrhagic stroke be referred to specialists, i.e. neurologists and neurosurgeons for definitive diagnosis and management. However, we know that wide variations in diagnostic approach, treatment options and strategies exist even among specialists. We recognize that optimum care requires a multi-disciplinary approach.

The Stroke Society of the Philippines is taking the lead role in organizing these multiple disciplines in one Congress. We have to sit down, talk and listen. We have to agree on how best we can help our patients.

We have an all Filipino cast. We have invited these experts to lecture on basic and relevant matters related to hemorrhagic stroke. There are no imports except for the global information that they will share with us. These new knowledge and our experience in clinical practice will be our main source in the workshop proper.

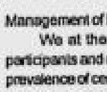
As we ask you to work, we also invite you to enjoy. The social program that we have planned will complete this exciting meeting.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank all our corporate members and other sponsors from the drug industry which contributed significantly to the congress success.

I can feel the spirit of the past two Congresses is still with us. We have all the right motives and the enthusiasm to succeed.

May God Bless us all!

ESTER SANTOS–BITANGA, M.D., F.P.N.A.
Overall Congress Chair



On behalf of the Officers and Board of Governors of the Philippine Medical Association, we express sincere best wishes to the officers and members of the Stroke Society of the Philippines on the occasion of its 3rd Congress on Brain Attack, on the theme, "Thinking Globally, Acting Locally – Guidelines on the Diagnosis and Management of Hemorrhagic Stroke".

We at the PMA are most glad to join you in welcoming participants and delegates to this most important meeting. Given the prevalence of cerebral seizure in the country, your congress on brain damage couldn't have come at a much better time. Thus, besides your unerring sense of timing, we also applaud your concern and dedication in providing avenues for practitioners to update knowledge and to enhance understading in the management of stroke. We congratulate you the men and women at the helm of the SSP for a most well–rounded scientific program to keep abreast with advances in stroke technologies and therapeutics. The PMA joins you in looking forward to an unqualified success of your congress.

"PMA 100 Years–Continuing the Challenge for a Healthy Nation", the annual convention theme, enjoins you to continue with renewed vigor and commitment in bringing effective healthcare to a great number of people. On the other hand, "100 Years of the PMA in Nation Building – Service to the People for a Healthy Philippines" is the centennial theme in the celebration of the PMA Centennial on September 15, 2003.

Congratulations. Mabuhay ang Stroke Society of the Philippines

GIL G. FERNANDEZ, M.D.
President, PMA

ROUNDUP

Case for dismissal

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—The Ombudsman has recommended the dismissal of a criminal complaint for technical malversation against former Bakun Mayor Belino Suni-en and a barangay captain in Bakun for lack of evidence. The case against Sunie-en and Narciso Way-et, Kayapa barangay captain, stemmed from the realignment of a P2-million financial assistance from the National Power Corp. in 1998. The dismissal was recommended because the officials only acted "in accordance with their official duties."

Nathan Alcantara, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Criminals nabbed

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Police in Cagayan Valley have arrested four of the 20 most wanted criminals in the region in separate operations recently. Senior Supt. Romeo Pagalilauan, acting Cagayan Valley police director, identified the arrested persons as Johnny Natividad, Avelino Tubon Jr., Andy Sia and Augusto Balmeo. Natividad was wanted for the killing of a retired soldier and a barangay councilman in Cagayan last May. Tubon was charged with raping a 17-year-old girl in Quirino while Sia was wanted for two rape cases. Balmeo has pending murder, robbery and illegal drugs cases.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Proposed district

VIGAN CITY—Provincial board members have asked the House of Representatives to support the proposed creation of a third congressional district in Ilocos Sur that will be composed of 14 upland towns in the province. Most residents in Sugpon, Alilem, Cervantes, Suyo, Galimuyod, Sigay, Salcedo, Gregorio del Pilar, Quirino, San Emilio, Lidlidda, Banayoyo, Burgos and Nagbukel belong to the Bago tribe whose origin is traced to tribes in the Cordillera. Ilocos Sur Representatives Eric Singson and Salacnib Baterina were asked to sponsor the bill.

Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Hospital donations

BAGUIO CITY—The Rotary Club of Baguio-Summer Capital has donated eight hospital beds and ambulance support bags to the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center here as part of its medical outreach program. Rey Leung, club president, and Dr. Virgilio Bautista, University of Baguio president and a club official, had been drawing up private sponsorships for health care facilities needed by the city's hospitals.

Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Cafgu shot dead

TABACO CITY—A member of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) was shot dead by suspected New People's Army rebels last Aug. 15 in Barangay Bantayan here. Glenn Calisin, a native of the place, is an active militiaman assigned in this city, Malinao town and Ligao City. Witnesses said Calisin was shot at close range inside a billiard hall of his relative at 2 a.m.

Job B. Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Wife kills husband

BATANGAS CITY—Passenger bus conductor Virgilio Fetalino, 42, and resident of Barangay Concepcion, this city, was declared dead on arrival at the Batangas Regional Hospital after his deranged wife stabbed him 38 times. His wife for 20 years, Marita Atienza, 38, from Taal, Batangas, still could not decipher what happened to her and her husband. She is now detained at the city police jail, crying and shouting for her senile mother. Alex Atienza, the suspect's brother, said his family has detected since May that Marita had lost her sanity when she would shout and cry for no reason at all, but said they have no money to take her to a mental hospital.

Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Logs seized

TANAY, Rizal—Police and Army soldiers and a forester confiscated 2,000 board feet of illegally-cut logs in a remote village here last week. The logs were loaded inside a jeep with no plate number and owned by a Benjamin de la Cruz, resident of Sitio Alas-Asin, Barangay Daraitan, Tanay on Aug. 8. The same group also confiscated 23 marijuana plants owned by one Jeff Tamayo and taken care of by Nenita Rabo at Sitio Bagong Barrio, of the same village. Tamayo, Rabo and the confiscated marijuana plants have been turned over to the Rizal Provincial Police for proper disposition and filing of charges.

Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Co-op academy in Bohol

TAGBILARAN CITY—The Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA) will build the country's first International Cooperative Development Academy (ICDA) in the famous Chocolate Hills area of Bohol. CDA Administrator Rodolfo Caneda, who was in Bohol last week to lay the project groundwork, said the lack of learning facility for cooperatives in the country and Asia would be addressed by the ICDA. The project will be a joint effort of the CDA, the local governments, farmers and landowners.

Chito A. Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau

Fire in Cebu

CEBU CITY—Fire hit the grocery section of the Metro Gaisano Department Store on Colon Street in this city yesterday. No one was hurt in the 10-minute fire, said SFO3 Allan Arciaga. The grocery section resumed operations at 10 a.m. after it was cleaned up. The fire did not spread to other sections because of water sprinklers. Damage was pegged at P50,000.

Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

KICKBACK CONTROVERSY

Bohol contractors, congressmen meet

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—The bishop of this city expressed satisfaction over the outcome of a meeting between contractors and congressmen shortly after a group of concerned citizens called the quarrel over public works contracts as one "over loot."

"It (the meeting) was a good start," said Bishop Leopoldo Tumulak of the Tagbilaran Diocese over the meeting between Boholano contractors and three Bohol congressmen on Saturday night.

The bishop said he arranged the meeting Saturday night attended by Representatives Edgar Chatto, Roberto Cajes and Eladio Jala and two contractors including Petronilo Sarigumba, president of the Bohol Builders and Contractors Association (BBCA).

Sarigumba had alleged that 99 percent of politicians in Bohol demand 10 percent commissions from private contractors for government projects.

Tumulak said he stepped into the fray when Sarigumba and two other contractors met with him to express apprehension over the lack of projects.

He said the contractors feared their workers would suffer most as a result of lack of projects.

"(The contractors) were asking why this was happening and whether they were being bypassed," Tumulak said in Cebuano.

Tumulak said he invited Gov. Erico Aumentado and the three congressmen for a dialogue with the contractors. The governor, he added, could not attend the meeting because he was out of the country.

"It was warm, jovial, not adversarial," Tumulak said in describing the meeting.

The bishop said when he asked the contractors and congressmen if they would discuss the issue on the 10 percent commission, the general response was "no."

"This does not mean that (the corruption issue) would not be discussed," Tumulak said.

The bishop said the congressmen appeared open to more dialogues.

Earlier, the Association of Concerned Tagbilaranons (ACT) described the allegations on the commission as a quarrel among thieves.

"This is bad," an ACT statement said.

The outspoken local watchdog group, however, did not spare the contractors in their barrage.

ACT said the people should also be informed that the Bohol contractors were overpricing the government and taxpayers "by as much as 50 percent of the project cost."

"So this really is a situation of two gangs of thieves quarreling over their fair share of the loot," the statement said.

The ACT said contractors overprice their projects because Department of Public Works and Highways officials also want to get kickbacks.

"Why do politicians want their share of the overprice? Because it costs so much to get themselves elected. Millions," the statement added.

ACT said in the end, voters are to blame "because they refuse to vote unless they get their *inangayan* (money to buy votes)."

"As the saying goes, 'the people always deserve the government that they get,'" the group added.

As the issue heated up, the provincial board decided to invite Sarigumba to a hearing.

Board member Dionisio Balite, in a privileged speech in last week's session, called for an investigation and expressed dismay that Sarigumba would not name names.

Sarigumba said he and other BBCA members were willing and ready to appear before the provincial board.

BING GONZALES

PIRACY
ACTOR Bong Revilla looks over as hundreds of pirated VHS tapes are destroyed during a recent operation in Davao City. Revilla was recently appointed as the country's anti-piracy czar.

Media men barred from youth polls

LEGAZPI CITY—Media here are planning to file a protest with the Department of Interior and Local Government after they were not allowed coverage of the Sangguniang Kabataan elections on Sunday.

Reporters said they were prohibited from entering the poll sites.

The voting centers were heavily guarded.

Josefina Castilla-Go, Department of Interior and Local Government Bicol director, told the INQUIRER they were just strictly implementing rules.

Only election personnel were allowed inside the polling precincts.

The reporters complained that their right to information had been violated.

Castilla-Go said the elections had been peaceful except for the misunderstanding between election officials and reporters.

Radio personnel said the elections should have been transparent. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Dengue keeps Bohol on alert

TAGBILARAN CITY—The Bohol Provincial Health Office (PHO) is keeping a tight watch over the number of cases of dengue fever in the province.

The PHO has recorded at least 110 dengue fever cases since January, with two fatalities, according to Alan Cubarol, Bohol PHO sanitation inspector.

There were already 17 dengue cases reported in the first week of August alone, the number is expected to increase before the month ends.

There were only 25 cases for the entire month of July. Despite the low tally in the total number of cases, two deaths were reported in July.

The fatalities were Eric Bongcac, 6, of Uptown, Ubujan, Tagbilaran City; and Brian Yu, 17, of Bayong, Pilar.

Cubarol said there were 32 reported cases in January but the figures dropped in the succeeding months. He said there were six cases in February, four in March, five in April.

There were no cases reported in May but the figures climbed to 21 in June.

The initial tally for August raised this year's total number of reported dengue cases to 110. *Chito A. Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Reporter sues labor official for slapping her

By Jani Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau

ORMOC CITY—A reporter of a local weekly here filed slander by deed charges and an administrative case for grave misconduct against a city official who allegedly "slapped" her during a recent job fair at a hotel.

Lelita Salvacion, reporter of the local weekly newspaper West Leyte Express, said in a complaint filed in a barangay court that Lydia Ramos-Regner, the city's Public Employment Services Office manager, slapped her without provocation during a job fair at the Villa Hotel here.

She said the incident took place in front of job seekers and personnel from the Department of Labor and Employment and Department of Science and Technology on Aug. 9.

Salvacion said she was at a reception table asking for data when she heard a woman shouting at the other receptionists not to grant her an interview, as she was a biased reporter.

Salvacion said when she turned her back to see who was shouting, she saw Regner approach her while repeating her loud remarks. As people started to mill around them, Salvacion said she tried to pacify the fuming Regner by telling her to just file a case. "I thought you're filing a libel case. Just file it."

"And just as I said it, Regner pressed my face with her both hands, then (did the same) to my breast while saying, 'I am not afraid of you. You're a one-sided reporter,'" Salvacion said in her complaint.

She said Regner only stopped from going after her when Rosalinda Bituin, the DOLE provincial extension officer, intervened.

Salvacion had written in her paper that Regner played favorites in the hiring of students for summer jobs in the city's Student Privilege Employment Services program.

In the article, Regner was quoted as saying that only students whose parents voted for Mayor Carmelo Locsin should be hired in the job program.

The city council summoned Regner to explain and she was also reprimanded by the mayor.

Regner had insisted that her comment was supposed to be off the record.

But she also admitted to the council during a hearing that "(during) her 10 years in office this has been the situation (only favored students are hired)."

Regner later asked Salvacion's forgiveness for her rude behavior. She said she was just frustrated because Locsin and city administrator Ari Larrazabal promised to support her in suing Salvacion for libel but the case was never filed.

Salvacion said she would pursue the slander case despite the apology.

Court asked to stop order rehabilitating Cebu seaweed firm

THE BANK of the Philippine Islands has filed with the Court of Appeals a petition for certiorari and temporary restraining order against Cebu regional trial court Judge Isaias Dicdican for ordering the rehabilitation of cash-strapped Shemberg Biotech Corp. (SBC) without the consent of its creditors.

Also named respondents were SBC and Benson U. Dacay, president and chief executive officer.

In its petition, BPI, to which SBC and its group of companies owe some P1.7 billion in loans, said Judge Dicdican violated the Rules on Corporate Rehabilitation as promulgated by the Supreme Court when the Cebu RTC granted the rehabilitation plan offered by Dacay and SBC, without the consent of their creditors.

In a statement, the BPI said the decision was erroneous, confiscatory and violative of its constitutional rights.

The other SBC creditors are the Asian Development Bank, the CLC Group of the United Kingdom, DEG of Germany, Standard Chartered Bank, United Coconut Planters Bank and Urban Bank.

Rehab of typhoon-ravaged farms in Tarlac starts

TARLAC CITY—More than P150-million worth of palay in various stages of growth were destroyed in Tarlac due to typhoons Gloria and Hambalos. But to farmers and agriculture officials rehabilitating the damaged farms in 18 towns in the province, all is not lost.

Records from the provincial agriculture office showed that Tarlac lost 12,059 hectares of rice seedlings, 3,160 ha of rice plants in vegetative stages and 98 ha of rice plants in mature stages.

Of the more than 3,000 ha of palay in vegetative and mature stages, almost half were given up for lost.

Provincial agriculturist Rogelio Panzo said 12,059 bags of certified seeds worth more than P7.8 million are needed to rehabilitate rice farms here and in the towns of Anao, Camiling, Mayantoc, Moncada, Paniqui, Pura, Ramos, San Clemente, San Manuel, Sta. Ignacia, Gerona, San Jose, Victoria, Bamban, Capas, Concepcion and La Paz.

He said they also need at least P8.8 million to buy squash, eggplant, *ampalaya*, okra and tomato seeds.

Panzo recommended the planting of vegetables in areas that cannot be planted with palay or are most vulnerable to the El Niño weather phenomenon, which is expected to hit the country in October.

"With the forecast (on the) occurrence of the El Niño, it is not economical and practical to provide farmers (only with) palay seeds but also corn and vegetable seeds in areas where irrigation water is not adequate for rice production," he said.

Panzo said the rehabilitation plan should be suited to prevailing weather conditions.

The Department of Agriculture and the provincial government would share the cost of the rehabilitation of farms in the province. The agreement was sealed during a meeting here between Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor and Gov. Jose Yap last month.

Panzo said the ongoing rehabilitation efforts were aimed at "maintaining" the province's average annual palay production of 14 million cavans.

He said the farmers would have to pay for the certified seeds given them after harvest. However, farmers in "heavily damaged" farms here and in Camiling, Moncada, Victoria, Concepcion, La Paz, Gerona and Ramos would get their 300 bags of certified seeds for free, he said.

Panzo said the demand for certified seeds was so big that the province needed to import 14,000 bags of these from nearby Nueva Ecija. He said Tarlac's more than 200 seed growers could not produce enough to satisfy the demand. *Russell Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Gloria: US true friend of RP

From page A1

overthrow the government and democracy through violent means."

But in an after-lunch conversation with Lucena-based reporters, Ms Macapagal denied that the peace talks between her administration and the NDF were near collapse.

"No, what I told (government peace negotiators) was to (leave) the communication lines open . . . (to) back-channel negotiations," she told the INQUIRER.

Asked why she preferred back-channel negotiations to the formal talks demanded by the NDF, she smiled sarcastically and said: "They are just using it for propaganda."

She said she spoke with Agrarian Reform Secretary Braganza, a member of the government peace panel, on Saturday night and told him: "Nobody is stopping the government peace panel from continuing to talk with the other side, but not in a formal conference venue."

On Sunday, an unnamed Palace official said the peace process with communist rebels appeared doomed.

The official said the government peace panel was placed "in a sort of limbo" when Malacañang issued guidelines that did not explicitly mention the continuation of formal peace talks with the NDF.

The President declared war on communist rebels on Aug. 5, saying her campaign against terrorism did not distinguish between ordinary terrorists and those who espoused an ideology.

Staunch anti-communist

Ms Macapagal noted in her speech that the other Presidents who succeeded Quezon, including her late father Diosdado Macapagal, were staunchly anti-communist and pro-US.

She raised the need for "social justice," saying that without it, "the people will take the law into their hands."

"Justice alone can maintain the stability of any country. Force cannot do it," she said, again quoting Quezon.

To bring about social justice, she cited the programs on land reform and agricultural modernization and the resolution of contentious issues like the coconut levy, which had pitted millions of workers against the group of businessman Eduardo Cojuangco.

The President endorsed the system of free enterprise, which she said was also advocated by Quezon thus: "Private business constitutes the pillar of the social structure. To a large degree the people draw their sustenance from it and the government lives on it."

She said the communist concept of a "planned economy" was "not democracy and has been discredited worldwide."

Ms Macapagal, who is intent on building a "strong republic," also said she was guided by Quezon's advice that "he who governs with his heart and not with his mind is liable to make injustice and to make mistakes."

She said that in building such a republic, "there are times that it won't do if we will use our heart and not the mind in doing what needs to be done."

Beefed-up security

After a briefing held earlier in the day at the 400-megawatt coal-fired power plant in the coastal town of Mauban, the President ordered the military and police to beef up security at power plants and electrical facilities in Southern Tagalog.

She issued the instruction after being informed that government forces thwarted on Saturday a supposed planned attack by the NPA on a power plant in Pagbilao town.

"We are doing this in view of fresh threats by the NPA to attack our power facilities," she said. "This is a bare-faced terrorist threat where the communists are once more showing their true colors."

She said the planned attack, which resulted in the killing of one NPA rebel and the capture of firearms, was another proof that communist rebels were "the enemies of the state."

Ms Macapagal reiterated an earlier statement that she recognized the communists' right to political beliefs as long as they did not engage in the violent overthrow of the government.

"Let me repeat—there are communists and communists," she said. "The communists with the armed component are the ones considered the enemies of the state because of their terrorist acts."

She also said the NPA had been engaged in extortion, arson, assassination, and disruption of communications, power and public transport, which were "all part of the overall aim to overthrow the duly constituted government and the democratic system and establish a dictatorship in our country."

Ms Macapagal said the briefing she had in Mauban would be shortly replicated on a grand scale in the Palace with power plant managers and even Southern Tagalog congressmen.

"We will hold this in Malacañang because that's the most convenient for all of them, and even those coming from Mindoro," she said. "We'll do the same thing for all of them so that we can have intelligence fusion and security fusion among the private forces and government forces."

'Victorious'

The President received the report of the foiled NPA attack from Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko, chief of the Armed Forces' Southern Luzon Command.

"Our troops encountered a band of NPAs in Pagbilao two days ago," she said. "These NPAs were attempting to attack the Pagbilao power plant and our troops were victorious."

She said the attack was foiled because of the government's "pro-active stance," as well as the information provided by residents of Barangay Kanlurang Malicboy.

"We have a growing number of voluntary informers who are telling us where the enemies hide," Ms Macapagal said. "I know that the people here abhor terrorism as much as we do."

She said the military was now pursuing the rebels, who had "fled to the Quezon reservation, the forest park of Pagbilao."

The President said she was satisfied with the security measures to protect the Mauban plant operated by the Quezon Power Philippines Ltd., a consortium of foreign firms.

"It's impressive," she told the local reporters. "That's why I brought with me the members of the national media—to show them the kind of government preparation to protect foreign businessmen and their investments in the country."

She described the security force assigned at the Mauban plant as "battle-ready."

Asked if her visit was a show of government force vis-a-vis the threat made Saturday by CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, the President said: "*Malamang* (Maybe so). Look, they made the threat then they attempted to seize the Pagbilao plant. That's the reason I conducted a command conference in Mauban."

Rosal had called for attacks on US troops and businesses in the country in protest of the "terrorist" tag.

In Manila, US Embassy spokesperson Karen Kelly said the US government just wanted to help the President in her anti-terrorist campaign.

Kelly said this was why US Secretary of State Colin Powell had declared the CPP-NPA a foreign terrorist organization.

But she withheld comment on the effects of the terrorist tag on the conduct of peace negotiations between the Philippine government and the NDF.

"We are just interested in getting the CPP-NPA out of the business of terrorism," she told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "(This is) the goal of the Macapagal-Arroyo administration, and we are looking forward to helping (it) toward that end." ***With a report from Norman Bordadora***

Joey role in rites irks Cory

From page A1

honors at the Manila Memorial Park on the occasion of the death anniversary tomorrow of opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., if Malacañang will have its way.

His girlfriend Kris Aquino is reportedly scheduled to fly in from the United States in time to join her family, including her mother, former President Corazon Aquino, at the Mass that will mark the anniversary ceremony.

If and when, it will be the first time that Kris will be with her family since her controversial affair with the much-married mayor was made public. ***(See related story in Metro, Page A23)***

The Aquinos, who are distressed by the romance, are shocked at Malacañang's plan for Marquez to welcome President Macapagal-Arroyo to the anniversary ritual.

The INQUIRER learned that Ms Aquino did not invite the President, but that Malacañang had sent word to the family that she would attend.

Kris' brother, Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, said the Malacañang protocol office had informed his family of the plan, which he described as "quite insensitive."

The Palace's reported justification is that protocol dictates Marquez's presence because he is the mayor of the city where the Manila Memorial Park is located.

Sources privy to the matter said Kris' mother was "disgusted" at the suggestion that Marquez be at the scene.

They said some members of the family could take offense if Ms Macapagal insisted on the mayor's presence.

Roco

But there's another potential cause for sparks to fly.

Ms Aquino has personally invited Raul Roco, the newly resigned education secretary, to attend the memorial Mass for her husband.

If the President makes it to the Mass, it will be the first time that she will appear in public together with Roco, who resigned last week after she endorsed the official investigation of a graft complaint against him.

Representative Aquino confirmed that Roco had been invited, but he could not explain why.

According to sources, Roco was not present at previous ceremonies commemorating the assassination of the man who galvanized opposition to the long dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos.

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Union Bank launches unique card

UNION Bank launched a unique product that combines the convenience of a credit card and the ease of utility card in one.

Lumina Visa card is an international Visa Card formed out of a partnership with with Unionbank and Utility Partners. Its aim is to primarily give residential customers more options and convenience in paying utility bills such as electricity, water, cable, telephone and cellphone.

The card is positioned as a utility card that helps reduce the stress of having to keep track of household utility bills. Hence, it is dubbed "the anti-stress utility card."

Aside from Meralco, all billings associated with the following utility partners can be paid through a Lumina Visa's Auto-Charge arrangement. Union Bank partners include Manila Water Company, Maynilad Water Services. PLDT, Bayantel, Digitel, Globelines, Globe Handyphone, Smart Communications, Sky Cable, Destiny Cable, Home Cable, Sky Internet, Pacific Internet, Globe Net Express, Infocom and ACE Insurance of North America (formerly CIGNA).

Unionbank President Victor Valdepeñas with Steve Conway of ACE Insurance, Insurance of North America

(L-R) Mia Nolasco Cuenca with Pacifico Villaluz and Maritess Lopez

Meralco's officers (L-R) Rafael Andrada, Jaime Camacho and Federico Sanchez

ERRATUM

The Inquirer reprints the above article and photos, which came out yesterday on page D2, with the correct text and captions. Our apologies to the mistakenly identified.

NEW PARTY: Jesus de la Fuente, Isabel Pilar and Nandy Pacheco introduce their political party, the Kapatiran sa Pangkalahatang Kabutihan, and their advocacy of a new kind of "moral politics." JOAN BONDOC

Social volcano about to erupt, says new party

From page A1

or with a "regular" internal revenue officer "moving around in a Mercedes Benz."

KPK chair Pacheco said the party hoped to recruit private citizens wishing to change from passive observers of social ills to agents of "social transformation" based on Catholic teachings.

The party will attack "hypocrisy" in the government and "dismantle social structures that glorify materialism, hedonism, vice, sex, violence and corruption."

Its specific objectives include the abolition of the death penalty and the pork barrel system, and the adoption of a two-party system.

It seeks to stop such "unwholesome" practices as advertising the names of lawmakers behind public works projects and allowing elected or appointed officials to double as media practitioners or product endorsers.

The KPK also calls for the abolition of the Philippine Gaming and Amusement Corp. and all forms of gambling run by the government, "except the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office."

Ongkiko was one of the private lawyers appointed by the Sandiganbayan in March to serve as counsel *de oficio* for ousted President Joseph Estrada. But he eventually convinced the court to relieve him of the appointment.

Pacheco sought the vice presidency in 1998 under the Kilusan Para sa Pambansang Pagbabago (or Bago) party, with Santiago Dumlao Jr. as his running mate.

Ongkiko said that depending on the support it would get, the party intended to "support or field" candidates up to the provincial level in 2004.

But its ultimate goal is to enter national elections, he said.

He ruled out the possibility that the KPK would forge alliances with the major political parties or hitch itself to the popularity of established politicians.

Pacheco added: "We will not enter into compromises just for the sake of addition or political expediency."

The KPK's other founding officers are Adrian Sison (secretary general) and Isabel Pilar (treasurer).

The members of its national board are Peter Paul Bautista, Ricardo Bolipata, Manuel K. Dayrit, Dean dela Paz, Jesus dela Fuente, Romulo del Rosario, Rodolfo Dula, Baltazar Endriga and Metodio Palaypay.

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AFP clears 3 officers of collusion with Abu Sayyaf

From page A1

He said the pursuit operations against the Abu Sayyaf were also delayed by the presence in Lamitan of government dignitaries like Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and then AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva.

But a 53-page Senate report cited enough evidence to hold Dominguez, Narcise and Campued liable for the escape of Sabaya and his men.

The report was prepared after the Senate committee on national defense and security and the committee on justice and human rights jointly conducted an investigation of the hostage-taking.

It said the three military officers could be charged with violating three provisions of the Articles of War. These are "misbehavior before the enemy and endangering the command because of recklessness and negligence (Article 76), conduct unbecoming of officers and gentlemen (Article 94) and disorder and conduct to the prejudice of military order and discipline (Article 97)."

Five senators—Ramon Magsaysay (chair of the committee on national defense), Ramon Revilla, Renato Cayetano, Ralph Recto and Edgardo Angara—approved the report without revision.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan, co-chair of the joint hearing in his capacity as head of the committee on justice and human rights, signed the report but indicated that he would file a separate "concurring and dissenting opinion."

With reservation

Signing either with reservations or amendments were Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, John Osmeña, Robert Barbers, Panfilo Lacson, Joker Arroyo, Juan Flavier, Noli de Castro, Teresa Aquino-Oreta, Vicente Sotto III, Sergio Osmeña III, Robert Jaworski, Manny Villar and Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Majority Leader Loren Legarda.

Magsaysay said the report was based on three resolutions that sought to verify the alleged collusion between military officers and the Abu Sayyaf. The resolutions were filed by Barbers, Honasan and Lacson.

Magsaysay said the committee was able to establish the collusion based on overwhelming circumstantial evidence and the testimony of witnesses, including the Lamitan parish priest, Fr. Cirilo Nacorda.

He said the issue of ransom and whether the military officers pocketed part of it was just a "sidebar" and was not proven by the committee.

In his testimony, Nacorda said several hostages were released after payment of between P25 million and P27 million. He said a total of P10 million went to military officials, P10 million to the Abu Sayyaf and "the rest to local government officials."

There is no need to conduct another hearing as requested by some opposition members in the committee because the report had already exceeded the 10 signatures required for its approval, according to Magsaysay.

"It is complete. We started this investigation on Aug. 17 (last year). We have to move on," Magsaysay told Senate reporters.

He said court martial would, in fact, give due process to the three officers.

The report is purely recommendatory and the final say on whether court martial proceedings should be conducted rested on the AFP.

Biazon, a former AFP chief of staff, said there were at least three issues that needed to be resolved. These were erroneous conduct of operation due to incompetence and lapses in combat of leadership, gross negligence, and collusion with the Abu Sayyaf.

The report, he said, should include an examination of how military officials deployed resources and appreciation of intelligence and of the effectiveness of control. He noted that there was no effective command and control during the entire siege of the hospital.

Communication

Dominguez was at the hospital but had no means to communicate with the operating units, according to Biazon.

Narcise was positioned at Campo Uno, about 2 km from the scene, while Campued, then executive officer of the 18th Infantry Battalion, was controlling a mixture of different units at the scene and might not have known his authority.

Gross negligence, Biazon said, could include the circumstances surrounding the ambush of Scout Rangers, the abandonment of forces, covering probable withdrawal routes of the Abu Sayyaf, inability to use effectively the available forces like the two platoons of the 55th Infantry Battalion, and the countermanding of decisions made by commanders on the ground.

He said this could determine the culpability of officers in the AFP chain of command.

On collusion, Biazon agreed that there was strong circumstantial evidence to pin down the three officers.

"Why would the Abu Sayyaf proceed directly to Lamitan after they landed in Basilan? Lamitan is predominantly a Christian community," Biazon asked.

"Even at the height of the activities of the Moro National Liberation Front during the 1970s, Lamitan was never attacked," he said.

Honasan, a former Army colonel, said the committee report was incomplete, as culpability under the principle of command responsibility did not extend to Villanueva and Reyes.

He said it was clear that Villanueva and Reyes were in Basilan and Zamboanga micromanaging the whole affair.

The Senate report did not consider a police report on this matter, which clearly showed that Villanueva gave orders to other commanders but disturbed the operational flow, according to Lacson.

Shipping exec linked to tax scam flees

From page A1

of Parañaque City; a John Doe, alias "Joven C. Aquino," and a Jane and a John Doe.

Wycoco said the filing of charges against Yu and his group showed that the bureau was not focusing its efforts only on Landbank cashier Acsa Ramirez.

"So the investigation continues. This is going to be a long-term (inquiry) to get to the bottom of the tax scam," Wycoco said.

Small part

Mallari said Yu and his accomplices, though they were "beneficiaries" of the tax scam, form only a "small part" of the syndicate behind the scam.

They diverted and withdrew P16 million in Lorenzo Shipping tax payments using the fraudulent "Joven C. Aquino" account in the Binangonan, Rizal, of Landbank, he added.

Mallari said the NBI had identified the man who used the name of "Joven C. Aquino," but added that the bureau was only waiting for him to surface.

"We are now zeroing on him. We have intelligence information and the witnesses can identify him if he is presented," Mallari added.

The other fraudulent accounts at Landbank branch in Binangonan were under the fictitious names of Alma A. Clemente, Roberto Lucero, and Jose Francisco.

Mallari also said that the NBI was trying to identify the group's contact person inside the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The bureau has said the syndicate could not have perpetrated the scam without the help of insiders from the BIR or even from the Landbank.

"Instead of going to the treasury, this group diverted (the P15 million) to the (Aquino) fraudulent account and withdrew it," Mallari said.

The illegal transactions happened between February and June this year, he added.

Yu's scheme

Mallari said the NBI busted Yu's group after a witness blew the whistle on their criminal activities.

YU

In its complaint filed before the DOJ, the NBI said that Yu had apparently devised the scheme.

Yu even instructed the witness to join the Riveras "in simulating deliveries of the check payments," the complaint read.

The payments were made on Feb. 11, May 13, and June 13, Mallari said.

To create the impression that the payments were made to the BIR, the suspects allegedly submitted fake Landbank official receipts, tax returns, and other documents containing fake validations to Lorenzo Shipping's accounting department.

"To top it all, subjects Yu and the Riveras even managed to threaten the witness into adopting their version of the incidents of the tax payments just in case the latter is invited by the NBI for questioning," the complaint read.

With the witness's help, the NBI located Teodorico Rivera. But the DOJ prosecutor later released him because the crime "had long been committed."

All of the accused are still at large.

Mallari said the witness was now applying to join the government's Witness Protection Program.

BIR chief quits, cries sabotage

From page A1

Bañez resigned at a time of heightened concern about lower-than-expected revenue collections and a wider-than-usual budget deficit. Yesterday, he said his resignation "paves the way for the additional flexibility for the incoming leadership, which will now take the bureau on to the next stage of the reform agenda."

The lawyer-certified public accountant had previously considered resigning on at least three occasions. Earlier this year, he actually filed a letter of resignation.

He served as BIR commissioner for 19 months.

BAÑEZ calls it quits after 19 months in office. JESS YUSON

BIR Performance Record

Year	Commissioner	Excess	(Shortfall)
1991	Jose Ong		(P1.5B)
1992	Jose Ong		(P5.2B)
1993	J. Ong/Liwayway Vinzons-Chato	P2.59B	
1994	Liwayway Vinzons-Chato	P1.95B	
1995	Liwayway Vinzons-Chato		(P2.65B)
1996	Liwayway Vinzons-Chato	P1.94B	
1997	Liwayway Vinzons-Chato		(P19.75B)
1998	L. Vinzons-Chato/Beethoven Rualo		(P17.88B)
1999	Beethoven Rualo		(P12.31B)
2000	Dakila Fonacier		(P36.96B)
2001	Rene Bañez	P0.32B	
1st half 2002	**Rene Bañez**		**(P35.46B)**

SOURCES: BIR, PDI articles / Compiled by Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research

Feeling betrayed

Bañez did not name specific individuals blocking reform in the BIR, but he also did not mince words.

"I feel betrayed. Despite my efforts to introduce reforms, *may mga tao na babaligtarin ka pa* (there are people who turn things upside down). They do not appreciate any of these and I feel we have lost the concept of a common good," he said.

Bañez, a senior vice president of Metro Pacific Corp. and vice president of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. before being appointed to the BIR, said he felt relieved now that he was out of government.

He may resume teaching tax administration at the Ateneo Law School, he added.

"I would be very choosy with my next job. It should be something that not only satisfies the pocket but also the heart," said Bañez.

The BIR chief added that his 19-month stint with the bureau was the most difficult period of his life—as well as the most gratifying.

With a take-home pay of only about P30,000 a month, Bañez had to travel about two hours a day from his residence in Alabang to the BIR headquarters in Quezon City. His no-nonsense management style gave him "a few death threats."

He said he had not been sleeping well since Thursday, when he decided that he really wanted to leave his post. Yesterday's resignation was the second that he formally tendered but the fourth that he had considered. Early this year, Bañez said he also submitted a resignation letter but was convinced by Camacho to stay.

"This time, he could not be persuaded not to leave," Camacho said. "I talked to him late last week and he consulted with the President over the weekend. This time it was really irrevocable and so we accepted it."

Bañez insisted that he was not pressured by any person or group to give up his position. Camacho stressed that the resignation was a personal decision and not political, reacting to insinuations that the BIR chief was asked to resign because the protests against his reforms were making President Macapagal-Arroyo unpopular.

"There is no such a thing. Insinuations that Malacañang had something to do with this are not only unfair to the President but also to Rene because it diminish the value of his decision," Camacho said.

Temporary posting

Camacho assigned Finance Undersecretary Cornelio Gison as officer in charge of the BIR "until such time that a permanent replacement had been appointed."

Gison was a partner at SGV & Co. before accepting the offer of the Estrada administration in mid-2000 to join the finance department.

Camacho said he and Gison would meet with BIR employees in Quezon City today to convince them to stay the course and support the government's collection efforts. As of the first half, the BIR incurred a collection shortfall of about P33 billion against its target.

The BIR collects 80 percent of the government's annual revenues. This year, it must deliver P447.6 billion to state coffers to keep the budget deficit within the P130-billion target. But weak collections have widened the fiscal gap to about P130 billion as of July.

The finance secretary said Gison was among those being considered to permanently head the BIR, but he refused to reveal the names of the other candidates.

Another finance undersecretary, Inocencio Ferrer Jr., who hailed from the influential law office of Carpio & Villaraza, was also on the list of possible replacements for Bañez, according to sources.

Camacho said Bañez's resignation would not be a setback to the reforms that were already initiated in the BIR. He said the government would not tolerate efforts of the bureaucracy to undermine the progress in cleaning up the agency and ridding it of corruption.

"Undersecretary Gison will monitor and ensure that revenue goals are met with the use of recently developed performance data. Those who fail to meet their targets will be subjected to disciplinary action," Camacho noted.

He had asked Bañez to be a consultant of the finance department on tax reforms and the resigned BIR chief said he was willing to help the government in whatever capacity.

"I thank the President and Secretary Camacho for their unwavering support," said Bañez.

"Let's just hope the (revenue) targets are met," Bunye said in Malacañang. "Commissioner Bañez precisely made this act of self-sacrifice because he felt that with him at the helm, the cooperation from the employees and officials concerned would not be forthcoming."

In her statement, the President called Bañez "a strong advocate of instituting reforms at the BIR and a staunch ally in my own advocacy of good and effective governance."

"Let me therefore thank Commissioner Bañez for the very courageous efforts he undertook during his term at the BIR. Secretary Camacho and I congratulate him for the milestones he was able to muster in so short a time and under extreme pressure from the many stakeholders of the country," she said.

BIR rally

On Friday, BIR employees demonstrated against Bañez's second wave of reforms. A year ago, they also took to the streets when the commissioner reorganized the bureau.

The employees opposed the move of Bañez to lobby Congress to pass the Internal Revenue Management Authority as the second step to his two-tier reform measure to rid the bureau of graft and corruption and improve its operations.

The first step was the reorganization of the agency's functions depending on the type of taxpayers, through Executive Order No. 114.

Irma, embodied by House Bill No. 5054 filed by Speaker Jose de Venecia on July 31, would essentially create a new BIR where the head of the bureau would be appointed by a revenue board composed of government and private sector leaders, instead of by Malacañang.

The head of Irma would have the power to hire and fire people, demote and promote, and give bonuses or impose sanctions depending on the performance of the employees.

Bañez said employees who would fail the standards to be set during the transition to Irma would have to avail themselves of an early retirement package.

Many reactions

Private sector leaders lamented the resignation of Bañez.

In a statement, Donald G. Dee, president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, expressed deep regret, saying Bañez has been responsible for correcting flaws in the BIR and system of taxation in the country.

The business community feels that Bañez's resignation is a great loss to the bureaucracy, he added.

"They should back up the good guys and keep them there," said Guillermo Luz, executive director of the Makati Business Club.

Leonilo Coronel, executive director of the Bankers' Association of the Philippines, said Bañez had been the right man for the job. "Now, it's really time to bite the bullet. *Masagasaan na kung sino masagasaan* (Let the chips fall where they may)," he said.

In Congress, Southern Leyte Rep. Aniceto Saludo welcomed the resignation but said he would still push through with his plan to file a plunder and economic sabotage case against Bañez at the end of the month.

"Since he's out of the government, we will no longer file it before the office of the Ombudsman but in the courts," Saludo told the INQUIRER.

He said former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, a tax expert, was helping him in the case preparation. ***With reports from Christine Avendaño, AP and AFP***

ERRING PRE-NEED COMPANIES

Following are the pre-need companies that are not complying with the prescribed investments portfolio mix of the trust fund as of Dec. 31, 2001:

Companies with investment on government securities below 10% of the required:

Education	
All Asia	1.08%
Legacy	5.98%
Platinum	8.26%
Pryce	1.81%
Scholarship	6.10%
TPG	8.23%
Pension	
Comprehensive Annuity Plan and Pension	8.49%
Pryce	1.62%

Companies with investment on commercial papers above 15% the maximum requirement:

Education	
Legacy	39.02%
Pension	
Legacy	53.22%

Companies with investment on direct loans above the 5% maximum requirement:

Education	
Ayala	15.95%
Legacy	53.64%
Millennium	12.38%
Pacific	9.38%
Philam	6.11%
Scholarship	22.18%
Life	
Consolidated	10.72%
Himlayang Pilipino	5.21%
Pacific	8.93%
Pension	
Ayala	13.69%
CityPlans	69.10%
East Asia	6.13%
Himlayang Pilipino	10.21%
Millennium	6.07%
Pacific	16.99%
Provident	7.26%
Rhine	8.08%
TPG	12.41%

Companies with investment on equities above the 25% maximum requirement:

Education	
College Assurance Plans Phils.	40.63%
Pacific	25.38%
Life	
Prudentialife	35.40%
Pension	
Comprehensive Annuity Plans and Pension	31.92%

Companies with investment on real estate above the 25% maximum requirement:

Education	
All Asia	56.15%
Asian Diamond	61.51%
College Assurance Plans Phils.	35.90%
Eternal	29.10%
PET	30.79%
Pryce	84.56%
Scholarship	33.94%
TPG	65.55%
Life	
Loyola	38.61%
Paz	67.15%
Provident	37.26%
Pension	
All Asia	34.86%
Asian Diamond	39.20%
Comprehensive Annuity Plans & Pension Corp.	40.93%
Permanent	53.40%
Pryce	80.05%
TPG	43.15%

SOURCE: SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION RECORDS

SEC records show 18 erring pre-need firms

From page A1

the Pre-Need Uniform Chart of Accounts more than two years ago.

Not reliable

The financial statements of pre-need companies showed that the industry was solvent as of end-1998, according to a 1999 study.

But the statements were not considered reliable in determining the industry's solvency, as they were not prepared using uniform accounting standards.

The problem prompted the SEC to require pre-need companies to present their financial statements in line with a Pre-Need Uniform Chart of Accounts and format. Under the rules, a total of 60 accounts, some of which are considered peculiar to the industry, are defined.

The way some pre-need companies have treated certain accounts like deferment of commission may distort the financial picture of these firms, according to Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus.

Lapus said pre-need companies must follow the same accounting standards so that reliable and comparable statistics could be prepared.

"It is important that all players in the industry use the same language. Otherwise it is impossible for the SEC and the public to monitor standards of performance," he said.

Accounting profession

Lapus said the SEC data also indicated that there was a need to review the auditing profession.

Emil Aquino, head of the SEC's non-traditional securities and instruments department, declined to name the companies which failed to comply with the pre-need uniform chart of accounts.

But Aquino, whose department oversees the pre-need industry, admitted that CAP was one of them. CAP has a trust fund deficiency of P2.5 billion. The deficiency places in grave doubt CAP's ability to meet future claims by plan holders.

CAP, however, has maintained that it is liquid and that it has consistently paid the benefits of plan holders.

Aquino said none of the external auditors of the pre-need firms that submitted 2001 financial statements had given a qualified opinion. These auditors said in effect that the financial statements reflected accurately the financial position of the pre-need companies.

A qualified opinion states that the financial statements may not reflect the true financial position of the company.

Pre-need companies, found not to have followed the SEC's investment mix for trust funds, or their trustee banks have been given until the end of the year to bring their investments within the prescribed limits.

Under SEC rules, at least 10 percent of a trust fund for each plan (education, pension of life) must be invested in government securities, not more than 15 percent in commercial papers, not more than 5 percent in direct loans, and not more than 25 percent each in real estate and equity. ***(See chart at left.)***

What are pre-need plans?

Pre-need plans are contracts that promise to pay certain fixed amounts to a plan holder some time in the future.

Unlike insurance plans, which depend on the occurrence of an unforeseen event or an indeterminate event, pre-need plans are to provide financial security for events that are certain to occur like children going to college or employees retiring from work.

Common examples of pre-need plans are educational and pension plans.

For an educational plan, a buyer pays P270 a month for five years, or a total of P16,200. At the end of the 10th year, the maturity value would be P30,000, which could be paid out over a four-year college course. A plan holder can use this amount to pay for tuition and other school expenses. ***Michael R. Cucio, PDI Research***

BEEM RICH IN SURPRISES

PGA champion sold stereos in Seattle

By Doug Ferguson

CHASKA, Minnesota —Rich Beem proved everyone wrong. Most importantly, himself.

WOODS seemingly imploring for God's mercy. AP

Major championships are supposed to be won by guys with golfing pedigrees, like Tiger Woods, not guys who walk away from the Dakotas Tour to sell stereos in Seattle.

Players in only their fourth major are supposed to wilt in the stifling pressure of the final round of the PGA Championship, not hit one career shot after another.

"When I sat up here yesterday, I didn't know if I had what it took to win it," Beem said Sunday night, the Wanamaker Trophy at his side. "I found out today that I do. I'm elated beyond belief."

When he tapped in a meaningless bogey on the 18th hole at Hazeltine, Beem raised both arms and looked into the bright blue sky. Then he did a shimmy shake on the green to celebrate his stunning one-stroke victory over Woods.

"I probably looked like a total idiot out there," he said. "But you know what? I won. It doesn't matter."

Playing as if he had nothing to lose, Beem attacked the course with fearless and flawless golf and walked away a winner in the last major of the year.

With Woods closing in on him, Beem hit a 5-wood into 6 feet for eagle on No. 11 to seize control of the tournament. With Woods making four birdies on the final four holes, Beem turned him back with a 35-foot birdie putt on No. 16.

"I'm still surprised at myself," he said.

No wonder.

Seven years ago, he was selling car stereos and cell phones for $7 an hour. On Sunday, the 31-year-old Beem stared down Woods during a crucial stretch of holes and never flinched when Woods put together his spectacular charge.

Beem closed with a 4-under 68, then jogged over to kiss the Wanamaker Trophy, which contains names like Walter Hagen, Ben Hogan, Jack Nicklaus and Woods.

"I was a lot more in control of my emotions than I ever have been under that kind of pressure," Beem said.

Woods did his part. Unwilling to give up after back-to-back bogeys, Woods used those final four birdies to keep alive his hopes of becoming the first player to win the three U.S. majors in the same year.

Woods watched the final putt on a television in the scoring trailer. He had told caddie Steve Williams that birdies on the last four holes would be enough to win the tournament.

"I went ahead and birdied out, and we didn't win," Woods said. "At least I gave it my best effort. We just came out a little bit short."

Woods closed with a 67, matching the best score of the day.

Chris Riley shot a 70 and was third at 283, his best finish in a major and good for a trip to the Masters next year.

BEEM (left) beaming endlessly as his wife, Sara, joins the celebration. AP

The PGA Championship has seen this before. Beem, who finished at 10-under 278, became the 12th player in the last 15 years to make the tournament his first major victory.

One of those was John Daly, who won in 1991 as the ninth alternate. Beem played a practice round with him on Tuesday.

"I think this win is similar to John's win in that he just went out and freewheeled it," Beem said. "He had nothing to lose–like I felt."

What set Beem apart from a long list of surprising winners was the guy chasing him.

All year long, proud champions like Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer have complained that too many players wilt when they see Woods' name on the leaderboard.

Woods showed up quickly with three birdies and two amazing pars on the front nine, putting him just one stroke behind Beem with nine holes to play.

Beem didn't buckle. He simply continued to blast away.

Hitting driver on just about every hole and attacking the pins, Beem turned a one-stroke advantage into a six-stroke lead over Woods in a matter of four holes.

Pivotal hole

The biggest was his 5-wood second shot on the 597-yard 11th hole.

"Come on! Come on!" Beem yelled as the ball soared over a cluster of bunkers, landed on the front of the green and didn't stop rolling until it was 6 feet from the cup. He made that for eagle to get to 10 under.

Woods played in the group ahead of Beem, although he knew who was on top.

A scoreboard was directly behind the cup on No. 13 as Woods stood over a 12-foot birdie putt that would have pulled him within two strokes of the lead. Instead, he three-putted for bogey, then dropped another shot on the next hole.

The key putt came on No. 16, the pivotal hole when Payne Stewart won the 1991 U.S. Open at Hazeltine. Beem begged his 9-iron to clear a marsh on the corner of Lake Hazeltine, and it barely did. His 35-foot birdie putt was true.

Beem pumped his fist and heaved his ball in celebration.

"I had no expectations," Beem said. "I really enjoyed this golf course. I thought I could get around it. But I never expected this."

Beem keeps a bottle of antacid in his bag and takes a swig before the round to calm his nerves.

Give the man a bottle of champagne. He's the toast of golf.

Beem collected $990,000 and a five-year exemption on the PGA Tour and to the three other majors. He can return to the PGA Championship as long as he likes.

Not bad for a guy who gave up the game in 1995 and decided he was better off in a blue-collar job.

He was called a "one-hit wonder" when he won the Kemper Open as a rookie in 1999, especially when he didn't have any top 10s the next year and only narrowly kept his job for this season.

"To win a major, you have to have something special," he said Saturday evening. "And I don't know if I have it."

He does now.

Beem took the lead for the first time with a bogey on No. 8–Justin Leonard made double bogey by hitting into the water–and he never gave it back.

"He just trusted and believed in himself and he got the job done," Woods said. "Sometimes it may be a benefit to be a little naive in a situation."

Leonard had been in that situation before, but simply didn't have the game Sunday to stay with Beem.

The '97 British Open champion, and a runner-up at Carnoustie three years ago, Leonard struggled to hit fairways and greens. His three-stroke lead was gone after four holes, and he wound up with a 77, tied for fourth with Fred Funk (73) at 284.

Woods started the day five shots off the lead but got into contention with three birdies and two big pars.

He chipped in for par on the first hole, and had an even better save on No. 8. From thick rough between two bunkers to a downhill pin with water behind the green, Woods hit a flop shot that stopped within a foot of the hole.

He was one stroke out of the lead, with nine holes to play against a former stereo salesman, and all signs pointed to his ninth major championship.

Only it was Woods who stumbled, with back-to-back bogeys that left him too far behind to catch up–even with birdies on every hole until there was none left to play.

Despite Beem's victory two weeks ago in the International, not many people knew him or expected much out of him in a major championship.

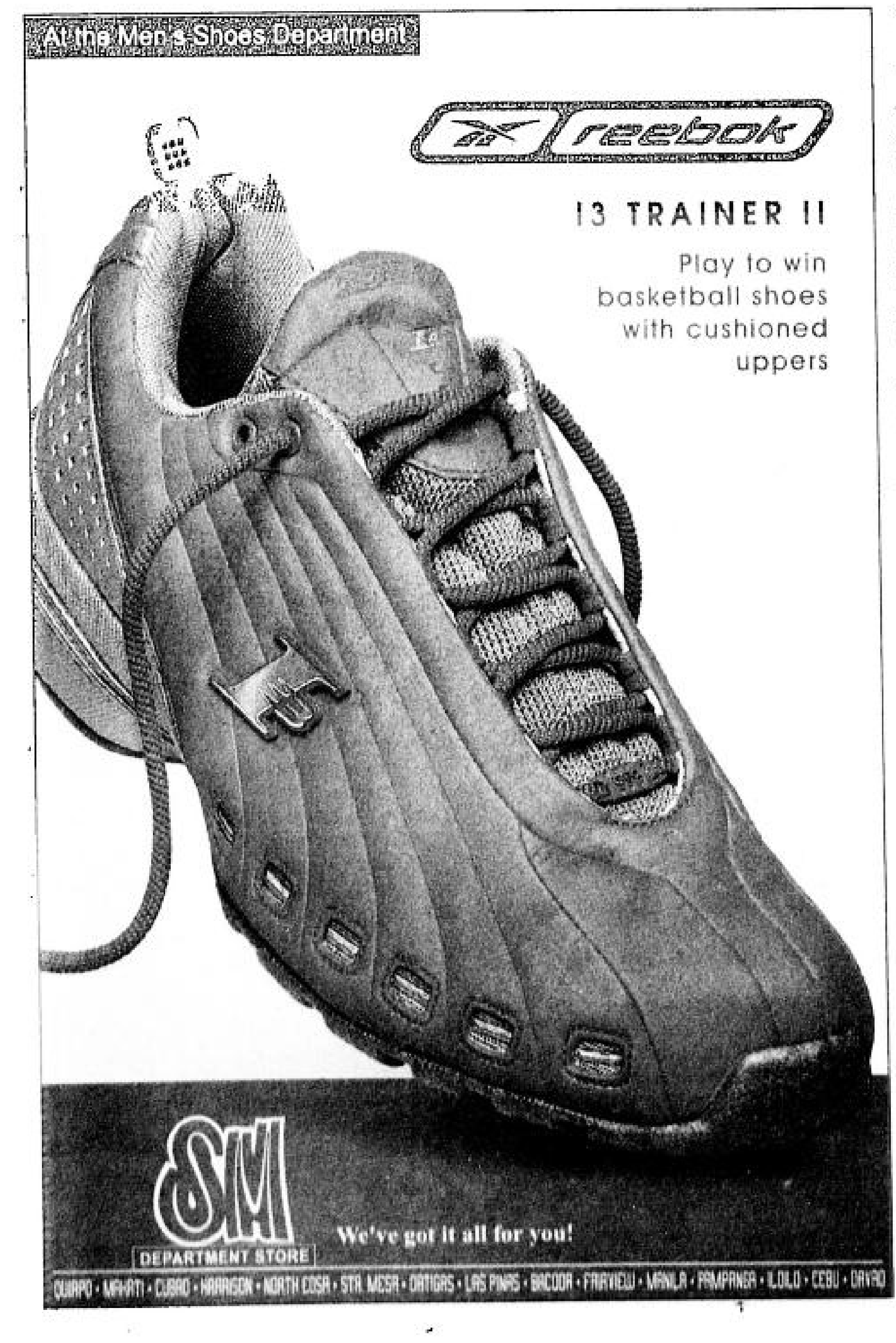
They will now.

AP

Final Round

R. Beem, $990,000	72-66-72-68-278
T. Woods, $594,000	71-69-72-67-279
C. Riley, $374,000	71-70-72-70-283
F. Funk, $235,000	68-70-73-73-284
J. Leonard, 235,000	72-66-69-77-284
R. Mediate, $185,000	72-73-70-70-285
M. Calcavecchia, $172,000	70-68-74-74-286
V. Singh, $159,000	71-74-74-68-287
J. Furyk, $ 149,000	68-73-76-71-288
J. Coceres, $110,714.29	72-71-72-74-289
S. Lowery, $110,714.29	71-71-73-74-289
P. Fulke, $110,714.29	72-68-78-71-289
R. Gonzalez, $110,714.29	74-73-71-71-289
S. Garcia, $110,714.29	75-73-73-68-289
S. Cink, $110,714.29	74-74-72-69-289
R. Allenby, $110,714.29	76-66-77-70-289
C. Howell, $72,000	72-69-80-69-290
S. Appleby, $72,000	73-74-74-69-290
S. Flesch, $72,000	72-74-73-71-290
P. Harrington, $72,000	71-73-74-72-290
P. Lonard, $72,000	69-73-75-73-290
H. Slocum, $57,000	73-74-75-69-291
M. Campbell, $44,250	73-70-77-72-292
J. Sluman, $44,250	70-75-74-73-292
B. Langer, $44,250	70-72-77-73-292
A. Scott, $44,250	71-71-76-74-292

At the Men's Shoes Department



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Pros get lift from First Gentleman

THE COUNTRY'S local professionals get back on the road again when the First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit begins in mid-October.

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and Comelec chair Ben Abalos, commissioner of the Professionals Golfers Association of the Philippines and president of Wack Wack, announced the formation of the nationwide circuit yesterday at Wack Wack.

Initial funding totalling P6 million for the new tour, envisioned to have as many as 12 legs, came from the proceeds of the recent First Gentleman's Cup.

"Fund-raisers are meant to reach out to as many people and we believe that the pros who are having a hard time looking for sponsors should also be part of the vision of the First Gentleman's Foundation," said Arroyo.

Part of the launch was an 18-hole fun invitational tournament participated in by Arroyo, GAB chair Eduardo Villanueva, GAB commissioner Emmanuel Palabrica, PPA chair Ernest Villareal, pro golfers headed by reigning Philippine Open champion Rick Gibson, PGAP assistant commissioner Alex Avisado, PGAP president Jun Bustamante, officials of the Federation of Golf Clubs Phils. Inc. led by chair Romeo Laig and president Rogelio Manalo.

Abalos announced that the circuit, to be jointly undertaken by the First Gentleman Foundation Inc., the FGCPI and the PGAP, will have stops with minimun purses of P500,000 each.

For starters, WG & A shipping company will ferry the local pros to the southern legs.

Manalo heads the organizing committee that also includes Col. Antonio Cabangon-Chua and Wack Wack general manager SP Malbarossa for sponsorships, Bones Floro, Jeric Hechanova, Andy Maglipon and Ana Castillo for tournaments, Junie Ledesma for finance and Tom Clemente for publicity.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: Senior PGA Ford Senior Players Championship, Second Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

PGA Europro Tour 2002 Highlights at 9 p.m. on Star Sports

TENNIS: ATP Legg Mason Tennis Classic, Semifinal at 9 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

BOWLING: CGU Asian Bowling Tour (Thailand), Women's Highlights at 7 p.m. (r), Men'Ss Highlights at 8 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1997, Bec Watanabe and Irene Garcia combined for 1348 pins to smash the doubles record of 1286 in the 20th MBA (Magallanes Bowling Association) Open championships at Astrobowl.

Toast to salesmen

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I RAISE a glass to Mike Arroyo and Ben Abalos for their pioneering effort at reviving the golf circuit on behalf of our pros. With SP Malbarosa backstopping the two, you can be sure the project will take off in October in smashing success. Cheers!

■

TIGER Woods did not win the PGA yesterday. But still, he appeared like the champion despite finishing second behind Rich Beem.

It was the way Woods finished his round. Four birdies in the last four holes.

Woods had put on another dazzling show of brilliant golf that in almost every shot that he made, it elicited cheers so deafening Beem remarked after the round: "Every hole, people were just screaming at the top of their lungs. It was like a rock concert out there."

Their pairing was like seeing Tyson versus Lewis, with Beem as Tyson the old fogey.

But Beem was reenacting not Tyson but Costner in the "Tin Cup." In one shot, Beem received the applause of his life, the one given Costner when Kevin finally hit the green after numerous misses.

It was Beem's eagle on 13 that won him his first major. Beem's 5-wood, 263-yard shot on 13 was the stuff that makes champions. It was the shot of the tournament. It landed 6 feet before the cup and Beem, a former stereo salesman, made the eagle putt. Woods three-putted the hole for bogey to fall 4 shots behind Beem.

When Woods bogeyed 14, the match was over.

Or so it seemed.

Woods is not the world's No. 1 for nothing. He birdied the last four holes from 6 to 10 feet to lose by 1 shot.

He ran out of holes, yes, but, surely, he was never ever short of talent. Not even when he was already almost sure of throwing in the towel.

But this is not to belittle Beem's feat, though. For, while Woods remains the biggest name in golf despite the loss, Beem beating Woods while being the underdog is something to crow about.

Salesmen of the world, unite.

Who said you can't do big things?

Army nips UST, 1-0, for 2nd win

DEFENDING champion Philippine army nipped University of Santo Tomas, 1-0, last Sunday to make it two in a row in the First Division of the 2nd Army-Utilco International Invitational Football Cup tournament at the Ascom field in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

National player Jeoffrey Lobaton struck in the 29th minute for what turned out to be the game's lone marker.

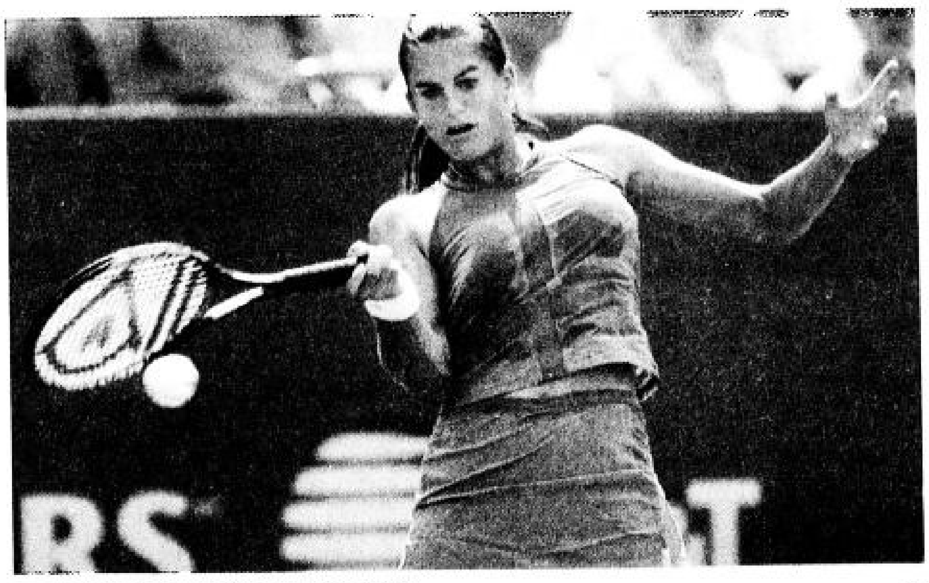
Sunday FC and Pasargad served strong notice to their second division rivals by easily winning their opening assignments.

Sunday toppled PCU-Dasmariñas, 3-1, in Group I, while Pasargad banked on Sarex Valeces' 4 markers to dump MIT-Mapua, 5-1, in Group C.

Led by veteran national player Judy Saluria, Army B toppled College of St. Benilde, 4-2 in Group B while University of the Philippines whitewashed San Beda, 9-0, in the first division.

Ariel Serrudo knocked in three goals while Marco Mendoza, Jonathan Yu, Andrew Santiago and Christopher Datu chipped in one each as the UP booters matched the 1-0 record of idle defending champion Army A.

Bedans Marco Maganaye and Narvaez accidentally scored the two other Army B markers.



MAURESMO MONTREAL CHAMP

AP

Amelie Mauresmo of France returns a shot against Jennifer Capriati of the United States en route to a 6-4, 6-1 victory yesterday in the Rogers AT&T Cup. Mauresmo earned $182,000. In Washington, American James Blake outlasted Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan, 1-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4, in the Legg Mason Tennis Classic. In Indianapolis, Briton Greg Rusedski rallied to beat Spain's Felix Mantilla, 6-7, 6-4, 6-4 to win the RCA title.

M. Lhuillier snaps Hartman's win streak

CEBU'S M. Lhuillier cagers snapped Hartman Seigle's six-game winning streak by posting a lopsided 98-82 victory Sunday in the 4th Danny Espiritu Invitational Open Cup basketball tournament at the Lyceum gym.

Lhuillier's triumph came a day after it lost to another Cebu team, ML Kuarta Padala, 68-82.

In another match Sunday, Homer Mercado Builders downed Kuarta Padala, 76-72, for its fourth win in six starts.

Lhuillier and Kuarta Padala now have identical 2-2 records in the tourney sponsored by Spring Margarine, Morning Star and Travels, Red Bull, SMB, Talk N Text, Alaska Milk, FedEx, Coca-Cola, Sta. Lucia Realty, Purefoods, Ginebra San Miguel and Shell and supported by Milo, adidas and Cebu Pacific.

Defending champion Spring Cooking oil seeks a tie with Hartman Seigle when it meets Kuarta Padala at 6 p.m.

Cagayan hosting national motocross Aug. 24-25

THE SIXTH leg of the Superferry National Motocross Series 2002 will be held in Cagayan de Oro on Aug. 24-25 at the El Pueblo Business Center.

The best motocross riders from all over the country, including Caltex-Revtex-KTM's 6-time national rider of the year in Glenn Aguilar and Shell-Yamaha hotshot Ernie Leongson, are expected to thrill Cagayan de Oro folks with their daredevil maneuvers.

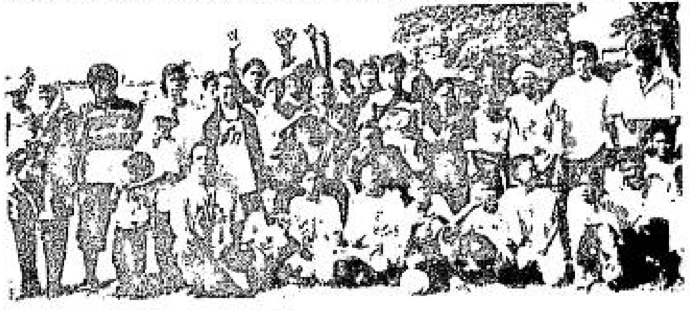
The event is a project of the Kids (Kabataan Iwas Droga sa Tulong ng Sports) Foundation, headed by Richard I. Gomez and organized by Hartebeest Entertainment Corp. It coincides with the city fiesta celebration.

Local support in making this Superferry motocross event possible is extended by Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Vicente Emano and Rudy Meñes of Pueblo de Oro Dev't Corp.

SPORTSWATCH

FOR GOLDEN BALLET

Philracom Chair Andrew Sanchez (second from left) awards the 2002 Lakambini Stakes Race trophy to horse owner Lamberto "Jun" Almeda following the victory of his horse, Golden Ballet, in last Sunday's featured race at the Santa Ana Park. Joining the festivities are Philracom Commissioners Rogelio Tandiama (left) and Jaime Dilag.



KASIBULAN FOOTBALL

Members of the Dom Gems Elementary School of Jolo celebrate after winning the 11-12-year-old category of the Kasibulan 6-12 Kasibulan Gift Football festival at the Joaquin Enriquez Memorial Sports Complex in Baliwasan, Zamboanga City. The event is a project of the German Development Cooperation and the Philippine Football Federation in cooperation with the Zamboanga City government, the Department of Education and the Zamboanga Football Association.

MLQ's lasting legacy in sports

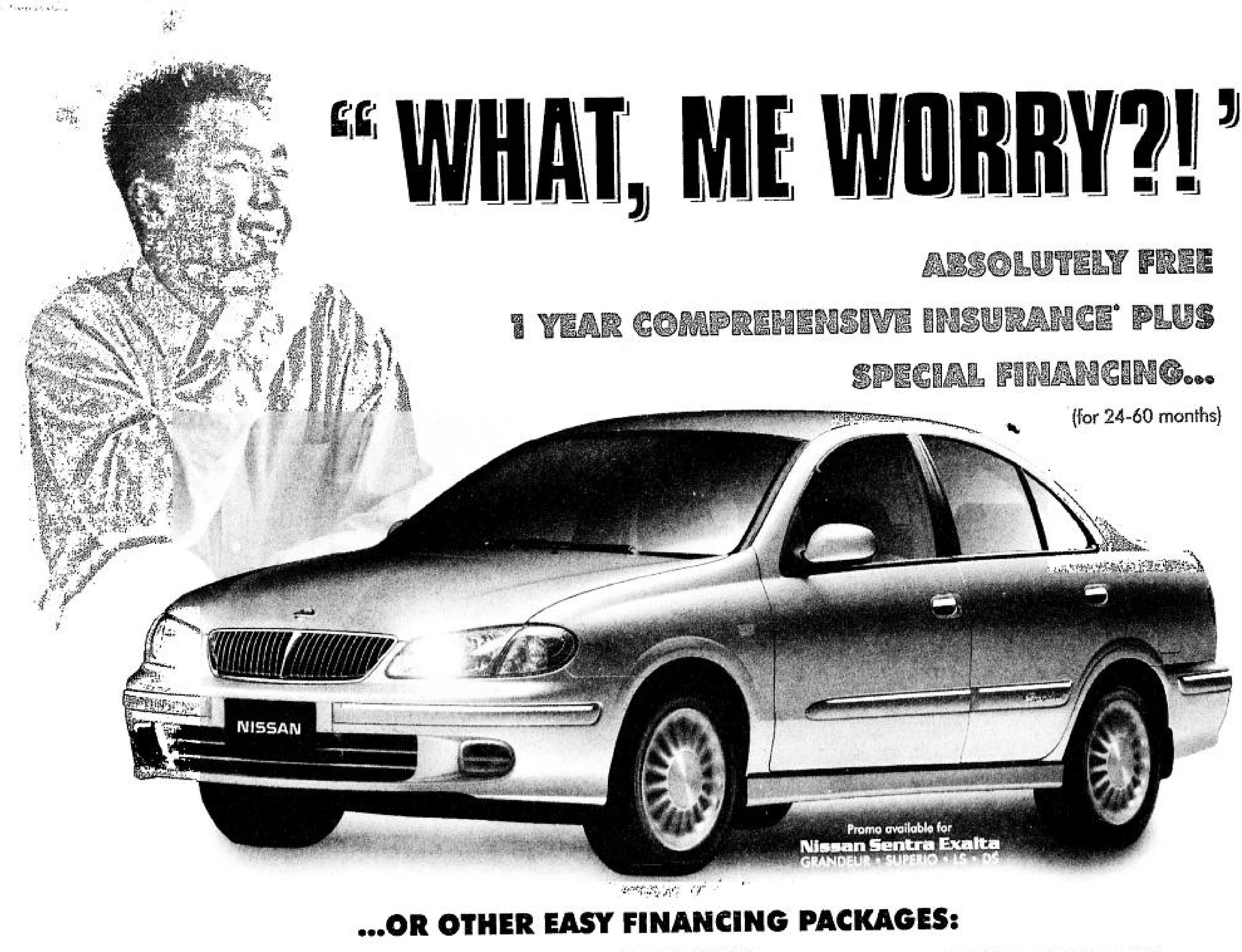
CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

I DON'T mean to offend, but I found it disheartening to noted that the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission did nothing worth remembering to mark the 124th birthday anniversary of President Manuel Luis Quezon yesterday, Monday, Aug. 19. As far as I know, there was none scheduled for that day, not even a token celebration to highlight the occasion. Why? Is it because sports officials have forgotten MLQ because he is already dead? Or is it because they are busy to bother because they are doing other "important" things like preparing for next month's junket to the Busan Asian Games? This is a pity, a sad reflection on how we treat our sports greats. Although Quezon, who died of tuberculosis at Lake Saranac, New York, on Aug. 1, 1944, was not even much of an athlete in the strict definition of the term, he played an important role in Philippine sports. In 1916, he was elected the first Filipino president of the defunct Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation, forerunner of the POC. He held the prestigious position until 1935.

Gifted with an unmatched passion for sports development and to the idea of competing in international competitions, Quezon sent the first Philippine contingent to the World Olympics in Paris in 1924. The two-man team was composed of 100- and 200-meter athlete David Nepomuceno and official Dr. Regino Ylanan, former Far Eastern Games champion and, later, founder of the NCAA and secretary-treasurer of the PAAF for 33 years. Ylanan is best remembered for returning his excess dollar allowance after every foreign trip.

It was also during Quezon's administration that the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, then the most modern in Asia, was completed in 1936 in honor of national hero Dr. Jose P. Rizal. However, no major improvements were made, leaving some RMSC facilities in a state of disrepair, one main reason why Philippine sports has remained stagnant unlike China, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia and Thailand whose athletes have become Olympic champions.



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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◉ *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

UP chancellor questions UAAP rule

By Dennis U. Eroa

THE RAGING controversy on the eligibility of Far Eastern University's top rookie Arwind Santos took a new twist yesterday as Dr. Emerlinda R. Roman, chancellor of UP-Diliman, requested the all-powerful UAAP board to grant her an audience in order to prove the "constitutionality" of the Maroons' position.

Tessa Jazmines, vice-chancellor for UP student affairs, said Roman, the second highest ranking UP official after President Francisco Nemenzo, had already submitted a letter to UAAP President Sonny Paguia of host National University regarding UP's stand.

"We are not going to take the decision on Santos sitting down. We are challenging the board's decision. The UAAP constitution is the supreme authority, not the board," Jazmines said.

The board had earlier junked an inquiry by UP coach Allan Gregorio on the eligibility of Santos.

Gregorio said Santos might have violated a UAAP rule when he played in the Cebu Basketball League during the preseason.

Former UAAP president Anton Montinola, also a board member, said Santos, a top pick for the rookie of the year award, had already passed the screening committee. He said he had already informed the board regarding Santos' CBL and PYBL stints before the opening of the season.

The board said Santos did not violate the eligibility rules "because the CBL is not a commercial league." Players from the UAAP can only suit up for the PBL after their sophomore years.

But in her letter, Roman argued: "An incoming varsity athlete is defined as a fresh high school graduate or transferee. Anyone playing in a commercial league must first establish a one-year residency."

Jazminez said UP had prevented UP's Kenneth Robin to see action in the PYBL last year in order to avoid any problem with his eligibility.

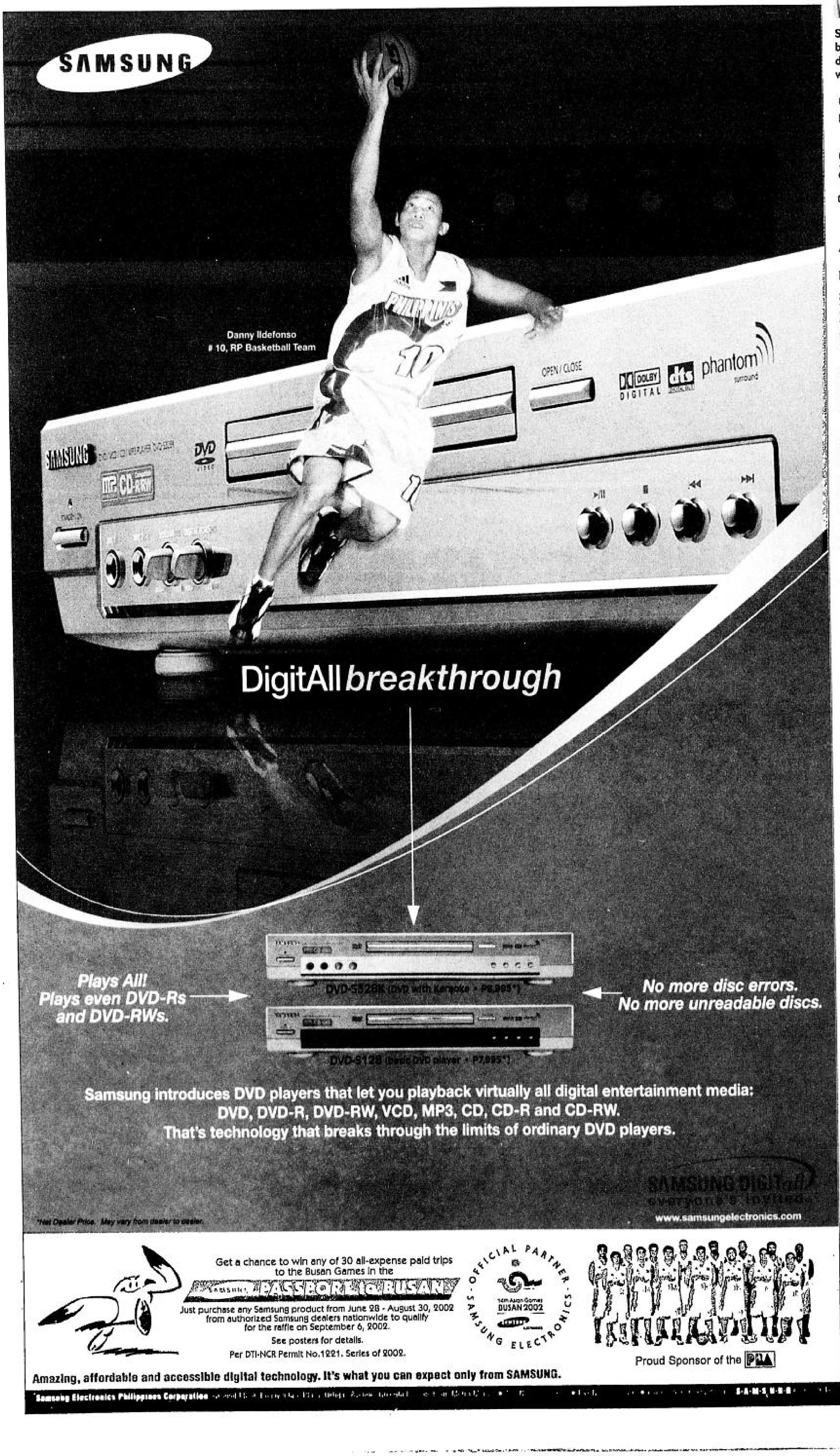
Santos saw action for Guardo-Pampanga in the CBL Invitationals which featured top amateur and ex-professional dribblers.

"I think that we have to maintain the purity of the UAAP. I long for the days when the late Noel Reyes of La Salle, Fr. Raymond Holscher of Ateneo, Cynthia Abad Santos of UP, Mommy Paguia of NU were sitting in the board. We need a sense of decorum," said Jazmines.

She said Gregorio sent an inquiry "but Dr. Roman's letter is a letter of protest."

Said FEU's Brenn Perez: "It is the right of UAAP members to express their views regarding rulings of the board. The board is always ready to listen."

The board is expected to tackle UP's appeal today.



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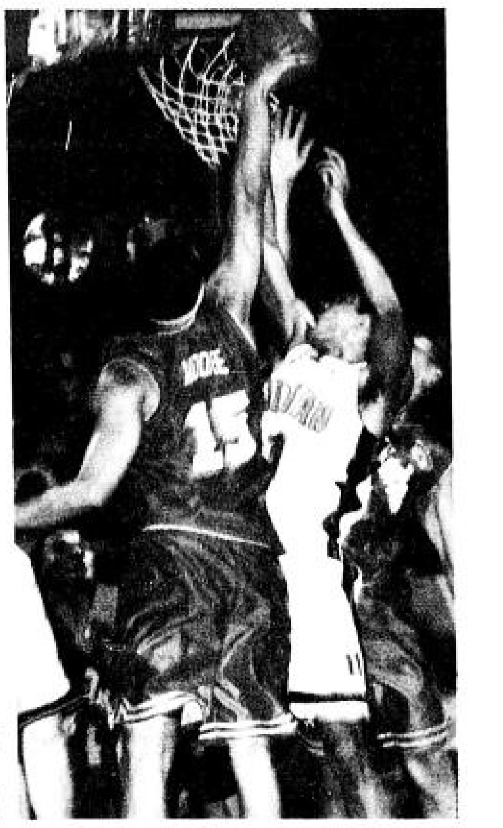

SAN Sebastian's Pep Moore (left) foils a drive by Letran's Frederick Rodriguez (middle) during their NCAA game yesterday. The Stags won, 74-59. JESS YUSON

Stags win, gain playoff

GAMES TOMORROW
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
2 p.m.—JRU vs PCU (srs)
4 p.m.—SSC vs CSB (srs)

Standings	W	L
St. Benilde	9	1
SSC	8	2
PCU	7	3
JRU	6	4
Letran	4	6
Mapua	4	6
San Beda	1	9
UPHR	1	9

By June Navarro

SAN Sebastian College subdued Letran College, 74-59, and earned a Final Four playoff berth yesterday in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Stags drew inspiration from the precise shooting of Nicole Uy and Redentor Vicente's heads-up plays as the defending champions stretched their winning streak to six for a second-running 8-2 card.

Uy and company can grab a share of the lead tomorrow when they collide with league-leader College of St. Benilde (9-1) in what many see as a preview of this year's Finals.

"We're not yet thinking about the championship..We just want to secure a twice-to-beat advantage going into the Final Four," said San Sebastian coach Turo Valenzona.

"But it's fine with me even if we don't get a twice-to-beat edge as long as we maintain our level of play in the semifinals," he added.

The Knights are now in trouble of missing the Final Four for the third straight time since winning the crown in 1998 and 1999.

In the other game, Jose Rizal University shaded San Beda College, 88-84, for its sixth win in 10 games. The Red Lions dropped to 1-9 in a tie with the UPHR Altas.

SSC 74—Uy 15, Vicente 14, Reguerra 11, Alfad 10, Falcasantos 10, Coronel 6, Najorda 6, Moore 2, Baluyot 0, Nadela 0, Gonzales 0.

LETRAN 59—Enrile 14, Aldave 11, Sillona 7, Bautista 6, Rodriguez 6, Sta. Cruz 5, Aban 4, Santos 2, Edwards 2, Reyes 2, Ang 0.

Quarters: 21-15, 40-26, 55-43, 74-59

RP team vs Taiwan today

GAME TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
7 p.m.—Selecta-RP vs Chinese-Taipei

THE HEATED battle for the last semifinal berth in the PBA takes a breather as the Selecta-RP Team faces the Chinese-Taipei national team in a pair of tuneup games starting today at the Araneta Coliseum.

It touches off the Nationals' final stage of preparation before they embark on a gold-hunting endeavor in the Asian Games in Busan, South Korea, on Sept. 29-Oct. 14.

RP head coach Jong Uichico said the Chinese-Taipei exposure should prove to be one of the games needed by the national team to regain its confidence and grip of the amateur style of play.

The Melbourne Tigers, one of the most dominant teams in the AuStralian league, have also accepted the invitation of the PBA to bring their act against the Nationals.

The Tigers are tentatively scheduled to play against the Nationals on Aug. 29 and 31.

Against the Taiwanese, the Nationals will be facing inexperienced but towering opponents who could pretty well simulate the unfriendly environment in Busan.

Hsin An Chen, a 6-foot-5 shooting guard, forward Hong Yu Chou, 6-foot-8 Lei Tien and slotman Chih Wei Wu (6-foot-8) form the nucleus of the Chinese-Taipei national squad.

June Navarro

UCAA begins

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission welcomes the inaugural season today of the newly created Universities and Colleges Athletic Association.

Organized by St. Francis of Assisi, Philippine School of Business Administration-QC, Olivarez College, National College of Business and Arts, La Salle-Taft, La Salle-Dasmariñas, Emilio Aguinaldo College and Colegio de San Lorenzo, UCAA opens with PSC chair Eric Buhain gracing the 9 a.m. ceremonies at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Girl, 14, gang-raped twice in 3 months
A24

Joey has 'damaging evidence' vs Alma

MARQUEZ

By Christian V. Esguerra

AN ANGRIER Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez will file today a revised and more strongly worded petition, with more damaging evidence, to further convince the court to annul his 12-year marriage to actress Alma Moreno.

Dismayed over the Office of the Solicitor General's unsolicited advice for the couple to keep their marriage, Marquez will present the additional evidence to prove Moreno's lavish spending and illicit affair, according to the mayor's lawyer Frank Chavez.

"Initially, we wanted to go soft on Alma...we didn't want to shame her," Chavez told the Inquirer. "But because of her belligerent attitude, we have no choice but to present everything to prove that she's unfit to discharge her marital obligations."

Chavez also slammed the Office of the Solicitor General for "publicizing" over the weekend its opposition to Marquez's petition for annulment.

He said the OSG came into the picture only because Moreno had sought Justice Secretary Hernando Perez's advice immediately after she broke up with Marquez.

"But since Perez and (Solicitor General Simeon) Marcelo are already in the picture, I challenge them to personally handle the case so we could meet face-to-face in court," said Chavez, himself a former solicitor general.

JOEY/ p. A24

2 small oil firms favored by Atienza

By Jerome Aning

ATIENZA

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza reportedly allowed two small oil firms to operate at the oil depot Pandacan despite a city ordinance prohibiting them from doing so.

This came a week after a graft complaint was filed against the mayor for forging an agreement that allowed the continued presence of oil firms in the controversial depot.

The Inquirer obtained documents showing that the secretary to the mayor Emmanuel Sison granted special permits to the Philippine Prosperity Chemicals Inc. and Jetti Supply Distribution Inc. on July 25 and 29.

The 90-day permits bore Sison's signature accompanied by the remark, "By Authority of the Mayor." Sison said the City Legal Officer Melchor Monsod also endorsed the permits.

According to Atienza's spokesperson Armand Sebastian, Sison admitted signing the permits.

"But this is only to allow the two firms to empty their tanks," Sebastian told the Inquirer. "(The oil firms) are not allowed to add to their inventory or conduct any more business aside from that."

The permits allegedly allowed the two

ATIENZA/ p. A24

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'Kerosene will fuel trouble'

By Agnes E. Donato and Leila B. Salaverria

"POURING kerosene on the ware of street vendors will only fuel greater trouble."

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran made this warning yesterday in defense of street vendors. He also called on Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando to be more patient with them.

"These vendors are honest, hard-working people who are doing their best to provide for their families," Beltran said. "The MMDA should be more patient and not resort to vicious tactics in handling them."

Fernando clarified yesterday that the MMDA has not started spraying kerosene on vendors' wares, although the MMDA could start doing it "anytime."

He said kerosene would be used only on certain goods like fish, meat and vegetables, but not on clothes or the vendors themselves.

Beltran was reacting to Fernando's earlier statement calling the vendors anarchists and saying the only way to curb this "anarchy in the streets" was to pour kerosene on the vendors' wares.

"What will Fernando have these street vendors do, resort to stealing?" Beltran asked.

"The least that the MMDA and similar agencies can do is to provide them with decent spaces in marketplaces where they don't have to pay exorbitant rental fees or be subjected to the *kotong* practices of corrupt police authorities," he added.

"The purpose of the kerosene spraying is to destroy (some of) the goods," Fernando explained yesterday.

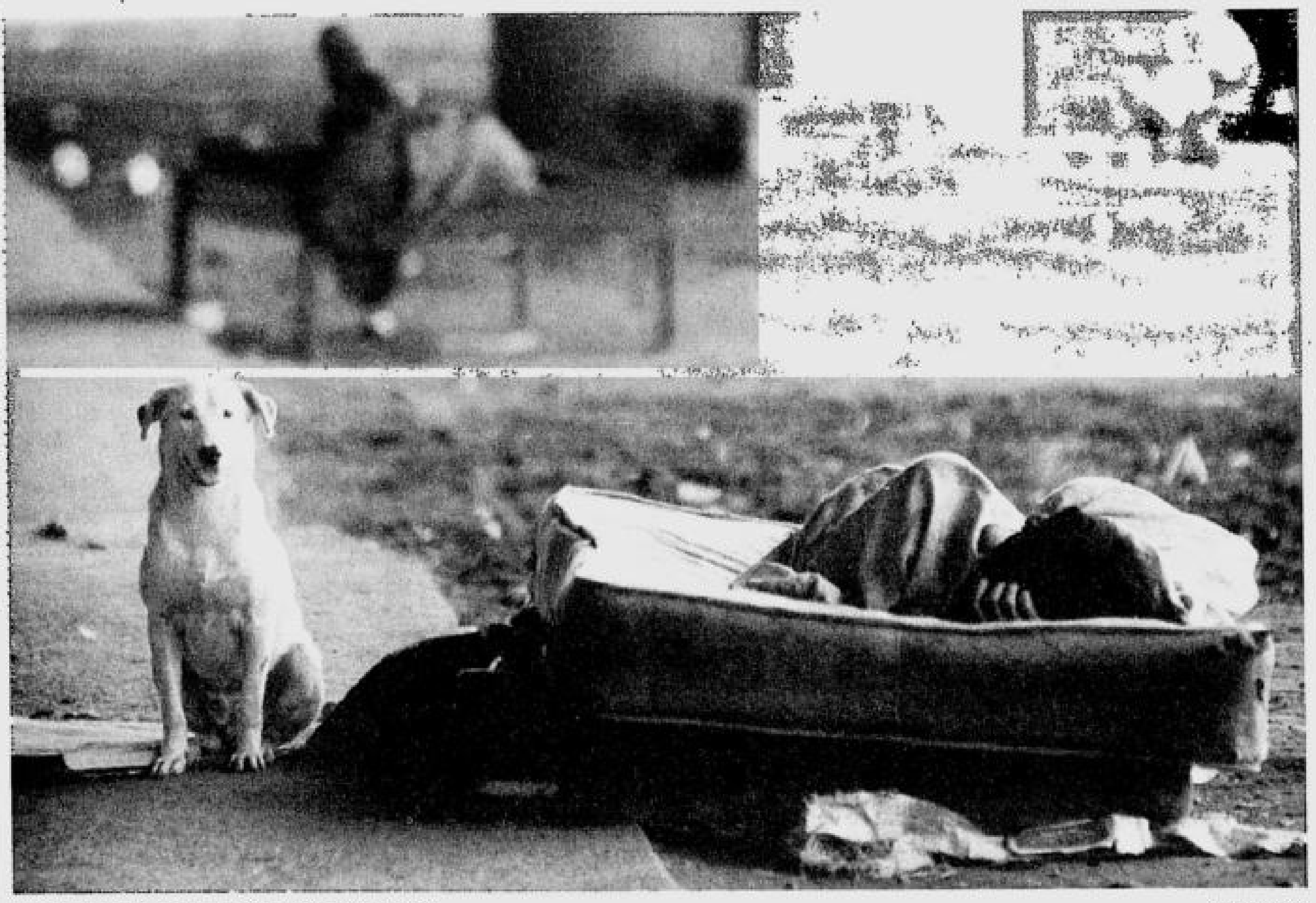
The MMDA chair said this this is to ensure the vendors would not return to the sidewalks.

Fernando has been getting flak from urban poor groups who protest the harsh measures that the MMDA is taking to clear the pavements.

Groups of vendors and urban poor even described his methods as "Hitler-like."

"The destruction of the vendors' goods is not 'a pretty sight, Fernando admitted.

"*Kinikilabutan ako kapag nakikita kong sinisira ang mga tinda pero wala tayong magagawa* (It's unpleasant to watch goods being destroyed, but I have no choice but to do this)," he said.



HOMELESS BUT NOT FRIENDLESS

JOAN BONDOC

Despite the perils posed by passing vehicles and pranksters, a man sleeps in peace on the side of the South Superhighway. He is, after all, closely guarded by his friend.

MMDA planning to deputize guards

By Leila B. Salaverria

METRO Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando has intensified his sidewalk clearing operations and reveals his plan to deputize security guards to penalize sidewalk vendors.

In a news conference yesterday, Fernando said he has met with representatives of the Philippine Association of Detective and Protective Agency Operators or Padpao, an umbrella organization of 1,500 security agencies nationwide, and with NCRPO chief Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco about deputizing security guards in Metro Manila to help the fight against sidewalk obstructions.

"The are over 100,000 security guards in Metro Manila and much more around the country," the MMDA chair told reporters. "(Deputizing security guards) would help our campaign against those who illegally sell their wares on sidewalks."

MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna said that if plans push through, security guards would be allowed to issue tickets to vendors who sell their goods in front of the offices or buildings where they are assigned. He added that the security guards would be assigned to protect only the sidewalks in front of their buildings and would not be allowed to encroach on areas outside their jurisdiction.

The MMDA has undertaken an intensified drive to rid the metropolis' sidewalks of obstructions, including establishments and vendors.

If the MMDA would not be firm in the drive to clear the sidewalks, then it would lose all credibility with the people, Fernando said.

13 bunglers return to work

By Christian V. Esguerra

TWO MONTHS after 21 Pasay policemen were charged with homicide for the death of 4-year-old Dexter Balala during a bungled attempt to rescue the boy from hostage-taker Diomedes Talvo, 13 of the policemen have reported back to work.

This has triggered speculations that the criminal case filed against them had been dismissed.

Supt. Oscar Catalan, interim city police chief, yesterday confirmed that the officers had gone back to duty starting last Monday.

The Philippine National Police-Internal Affairs Service (PNP-IAS) had earlier ordered the relief of seven officers and the forced resignation of ex-Pasay chief Eduardo de la Cerna for bungling Balala's rescue last May at the Philtranco bus terminal in Quezon City.

But Catalan could not confirm if the criminal charges against De la Cerna had already been scrapped. He ordered one of his men yesterday to get a copy of the order from the Office of the Ombudsman supposedly dismissing the cases.

Francisco Beron, Pasay's chief prosecutor, had submitted the result of his office's preliminary investigation on the homicide charges against the policemen to the Ombudsman for appropriate action.

Joey has 'damaging . . .

From p. A23

In a 15-page amended petition to be filed this morning before Judge Helen Ricafort, Marquez said Moreno has long been "psychologically incapacitated" to discharge her marital obligations as proven by her alleged lavish spending and her alleged affair with Cebu City disc jockey Julian Say.

Marquez said he has witnesses and video footages that would show the "unlawful affair and secret trysts" of Moreno and Say.

Chavez said at least four people from Moreno's camp have agreed to testify against the actress. They supposedly accompanied her during her frequent visits to Cebu to be with Say.

Last December, Moreno allegedly refused to join the family's Christmas vacation in the US and instead opted to meet Say.

"The moment the petitioner and his children boarded the airplane for the US, (Moreno) immediately went to the domestic airport, boarded the next plane for Cebu City to rendezvous with this Julian Say," said Marquez's petition.

The mayor claimed Moreno has been "indifferent and hostile" to him and their children, often making excuses not to join the family. Moreno also never did any household chores and often locked herself in her room, he said.

Chavez said that last year, Moreno emptied a bank account, which had about P1 million, that had been opened by Marquez for her emergency expenses.

Marquez said he at one time "got the surprise of his life" when he received a bill for US$11,000 from a credit card company. Moreno obtained the card by allegedly forging her husband's signature and spent the amount in one shopping binge.

Girl, 14, gang-raped twice in 3 months

By Christian V. Esguerra

FOR THE second time in three months, a group of teenagers allegedly abducted, tortured and gang-raped a 14-year-old girl in Taguig last Friday.

According to the chief of the Taguig Police Station Investigation Division, one of the underaged suspects even carved his alias on the victim's left arm using a glass fragment.

The victim, who is said to be three months pregnant since her first abduction in May, was on her way home at about 1:30 p.m. when the group dragged her into a van in Barangay Bagumbayan and later took her to a vacant house, said Insp. Virgilio Pagtama.

Before they took turns in raping her, the suspects forced the girl to take shabu and burned her skin with cigarettes, Pagtama told reporters.

A suspect, identified only as Tisoy, used a glass shard to carve the words *"Ako si Tisoy"* ("I am Tisoy") on the girl's arm, Pagtama said.

The following morning, the van's driver took pity on the girl and drove her to Pasay.

The girl told Pagtama that the suspects, most of whom are said to be only 17 years old, were planning to kill her before the van driver helped her escape.

The suspects allegedly wanted to silence her for good because she went to the police right after she was first abducted in May.

On Saturday, police arrested one of the suspects identified as "Alien." He is now facing abduction with rape charges.

Authorities are now looking for Alien's companions--a certain "Tenga," "Tisoy," the van driver and another unidentified suspect.

The 3 military officers should be executed

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IF ONLY to clear the name of the Armed Forces, the three high-ranking officers in the Lamitan, Basilan incident should immediately be court-martialed as recommended by two Senate committees which probed into the incident.

The AFP officers corps should shun camaraderie in favor of protecting its integrity. Integrity is one of the qualities of a military officer. The logo of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), the concerned officers' alma mater, lists courage, loyalty and integrity as its guiding principles.

Maj. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, Col. Juvenal Narcise and Maj. Eliseo Campued should be made to answer for their lapses in leadership or treason. "Treason" if they colluded with the enemy, the Abu Sayyaf.

***

Escape was impossible for the Abu Sayyaf bandits, who were holed up with their hostages inside the Dr. Jose Ma. Torres Memorial Hospital. They were surrounded by hundreds of government troops.

But escape they did. And our military became the laughingstock of the world as a result.

The only possible reason for the impossible escape of the Abu Sayyaf bandits with their hostages was the collusion of some top military brass at the scene with them.

***

If the three officers are found guilty of treason they should be executed by a firing squad. They should be made to wear their uniforms during the execution.

Since they would be tried by a military court, they could be punished under the Articles of War. Treason is punishable by death by musketry.

Their execution--that is, if they were found guilty--should be witnessed by the entire Armed Forces leadership and rank and file through closed circuit TV inside the military camps.

***

Forget about the testimonies of Father Cirilo Nacorda and others who said that there was collusion between the military and the Abu Sayyaf in the Lamitan incident.

But take note that three of the hostages taken from Dos Palmas resort in Palawan were able to escape during the Lamitan incident! They were construction tycoon Reghis Romero, his girlfriend Riza Santos and 9-year-old RJ Recio.

How come they were able to escape while the other hostages were not?

***

The answer to that question was provided by one of the witnesses, Corazon Trota, who was in one of the rooms in the hospital with Reghis and Santos.

Trota, a Lamitan resident and apparently a patient in the hospital when the Abu Sayyaf took over it, said she saw Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Sabaya barge into their room. Sabaya, according to Trota, was shouting, "Where are they? Reghis, Reghis! You can come out now."

Upon seeing Reghis, Sabaya reportedly told him he could leave. "Just tell (the authorities) that you escaped. And bring the child (Recio) with you."

***

If there was no collusion between the military leaders at the scene and the "cornered" Abu Sayyaf, you think Romero, his girlfriend and the child would have escaped?

I was told that the ransom payoff took place in Manila. Negotiations for Romero's release, I was told, took place while the hostages were en route to Basilan from Palawan and during the stand-off.

How the Romero's ransom money was able to reach the Abu Sayyaf is another question that only those three officers can probably answer.

***

Another top-ranking military officer who should have been punished for a leadership lapse was Rear Adm. Rodolfo Rabago, commander of the Western Command (Wescom), at the time the Abu Sayyaf kidnapped some guests and employees of the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan.

Napakatanga po ni Rabago. He didn't know how to deal with the crisis situation on his hands.

***

True, he ordered helicopters to go after the Abu Sayyaf kidnappers and their hostages board a high-speed boat.

But he did not give any orders to shoot the boat to sink it. He deferred making a fateful decision and this resulted in the bandits getting away with their hostages.

His indecision caused the loss of many lives later, the loss of face by the country, the loss of so many tourists coming to our shores, the loss of foreign investments.

I wonder if this admiral, who's already retired, can still sleep knowing that his indecision caused the country's woes?

***

The report that former President Erap and his aide, Robert Aventajado, got "commissions" from the ransom payments for the release of the Sipadan hostages is old hat. It's no longer earth-shaking.

This corner has reported several times the then shocking revelation about Aventajado dipping his dirty fingers into the ransom payments.

My sources said then that the Abu Sayyaf kidnappers would give an amount for the release of their hostages. Aventajado and his cohorts among the local officials in Sulu would raise the ransom demand. The difference between the Abu Sayyaf ransom demand and the government's negotiators' ransom demand for the hostages' release, went to the pockets of Aventajado et al.

***

And knowing Erap, who even collected money from *jueteng*, he probably got a cut from the ransom payments, too, courtesy of Aventajado, whom he appointed as government negotiator.

The only guy that did not benefit from the filthy deal was Lepeng Wee, then presidential consultant on Mindanao economic affairs. Erap appointed him to deal with the Abu Sayyaf for the release of the Malaysian hostages. Aventajado was made negotiator for the release of the European hostages.

I can say this without batting an eyelash: Wee never got a single centavo from the ransom payment. I personally know he used his personal money to expedite the release of the Malaysian hostages. He was reimbursed later by the Malaysian government.

2 small oil firms

From p. A23

companies "to cause the immediate transfer/withdrawal of the contents of its tank."

The firms were also asked "to ensure and commit itself not to increase, in anyway, the volume of contents of chemicals currently existing in its tanks."

Sison said City Hall would make sure the provisions of the permit would be strictly enforced, according to Sebastian.

Although operations in the depot site have been disallowed, the spokesperson said the appeals were granted "in the spirit of ordinance's intention to give security to the Pandacan community."

A city official, who asked not to be named, said competitors of the two oil firms are grumbling over the perceived "favoritism."

He said the owners of the two small oil firms appealed to Atienza after the city's Business Promotions and Development Office refused to grant their request to be allowed to operate.

The source said BPDO director Gerino Tolentino refused to do so because of City Ordinance No. 8027, which took effect on June 28, strictly forbidding all types of operations involving fuel oil in Pandacan.

Jetti maintains six tanks in a depot operated by the Nagtahan Terminals Inc. on Beata Street in Pandacan. Each tank has a million-liter capacity. Jetti stores diesel and gasoline in the tanks.

Philippine Prosperity, meanwhile, has a gas tank on nearby F. Manalo Street.

Last week, third district Councilor Jhosep Lopez called for an investigation to determine why the two firms were allowed to operate in violation of the ordinance.

Lopez said only the three big oil companies—Petron, Caltex and Shell—were spared from the effects of the ordinance because they entered into an memorandum of understanding with the city government.

Tolentino earlier said that the permits of about 20 small oil firms in the Pandacan-Sta. Ana area were not renewed because of Ordinance 8027.

The law converted the 30-hectare industrial area into a commercial-residential zone.

Opposition councilors have described the MOU as unfair because the ordinance was altered to favor the large oil firms.

One councilor, Benjamin Asilo, filed a graft case against Atienza and questioned the validity of the MOU vis-a-vis Ordinance 8027.

In his complaint, Asilo asked the Ombudsman to investigate Atienza's failure to implement Ordinance 8027, which supposedly gave oil giants Petron, Shell and Caltex up to June 28 this year to cease operations in the controversial facility.

Two days before the deadline, the Department of Energy brokered an agreement that allowed the big oil firms to extend operations at the facility for six months.

New rock group Monsterbot launches debut album

FAST-RISING OPM rock group Monsterbot will be featured in a special showcase to mark the formal launch of their debut album, "Explosion," under MCA Universal, Aug. 21, 6 p.m. at Xaymaca Bar along Timog Avenue, Quezon City.

The group is composed of former high school classmates from La Salle (Antipolo), who initially acquired a following for their distinct type of music which they played in small gigs during semestral breaks.

They came to be known as "Female Body Explosions" because they always sent girls in hysteria whenever they perform in college fairs.

The group later changed its name to Monsterbot when the boys started to do regular gigs at Mayric's in España and other bards that featured underground music.

A special feature about Monsterbot in NU 107's "Raw" skyrocketed them to indie popularity. Soon after, the group has been often mentioned in mailing lists, like Bandabanda and Philmusic.

Monsterbot is composed of Diego Mapa (guitarist and main songwriter), Karl Claudio (bassist), Glenn San Agustin (vocalist), Ryan Magsumbol (drummer) and Carlo Navarro (keyboardist).

Monsterbot describes their sound as a fusion of indie rock, electronica, rap, hardcore punk, garage techno and even bossanova.

The group is now making its bid to modern rock stardom with their signature song, "Explosion," the title track of their debut album.

A video of the song directed by Quark Henares, is now being aired in several cable channels.

Sexbomb Girls do mall tour

THE SEXBOMB Girls will perform in various malls to promote their debut album, "Unang Putok," under BMG Records Pilipinas.

Catch the phenomenal dance group-turned-singing sensation on Aug. 22 at SM North Edsa, Aug. 23 at SM Fairview, Aug. 25 at Robinson's Novaliches, Aug. 30 at Robinson's Galleria, Sept. 7 at Robinson's Metro East and Sept. 29 at Robinson's Manila.

See Rochelle, Jopay, Izzy, Wend, Monique and Yvette perform the songs from their album live, including the smash hit single, "Bakit Papa" and their latest offering, "Pretty Little Baby."

The Sexbomb Girls are mainstays of the top-rating noontime show, "Eat Bulaga" on GMA 7.

The Girls are also seen in the weekly primetime sitcom, "Daboy and Da Girl," which stars Rudy Fernandez and Rosanna Roces, also on GMA 7.

"Unang Putok" is released with Skechers Sport, Beverly Hills and Co., Petro Rev-X, Leonardo Bags, LG Collins and Ratsky Bar and Restaurant.

AYALA CINEMAS

The Best of CINEMANILA 2002
August 16 to September 3 2002

		GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 1	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 2
Aug. 17 (Sat.)	10:30	ADDRESS UNKNOWN	THE GIRL FROM PARIS
	1:30	69	MANITO
	3:30	FRIEND	CENTRAL STATION
	6:30	FAST FOOD, FAST WOMEN	WHAT TIME IS IT THERE?
	8:30	DOG DAYS	ATANARJUAT
	10:30	NO MAN'S LAND	SEAFOOD
Aug. 18 (Sun.)	10:30	BASHU, THE LITTLE STRANGER	FOLLOWING
	1:30	ONCE UPON A TIME IN CHINA	FRIEND
	3:30	A CITY OF SADNESS	EATING AIR
	6:30	ATANARJUAT	WHAT TIME IS IT THERE?
	8:30	CENTRAL STATION	A PORNOGRAPHIC AFFAIR
	10:30	HOLLYWOOD HONG KONG	QUITTING
Aug. 19 (Mon.)	10:30	WATERBOYS	BASHU, THE LITTLE STRANGER
	1:30	EATING AIR	THE GIRL FROM PARIS
	3:30	DOG DAYS	FRIEND
	6:30	FAST FOOD, FAST WOMEN	SEAFOOD
	8:30	69	NO MANS LAND
	10:30	KIKOJIRU	A PORNOGRAPHIC AFFAIR

CINEMAS
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AUSTIN POWERS
GOLDMEMBER
AT ALL AYALA CINEMAS AUGUST 28

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INVITATIONAL DWTM PREMIERE
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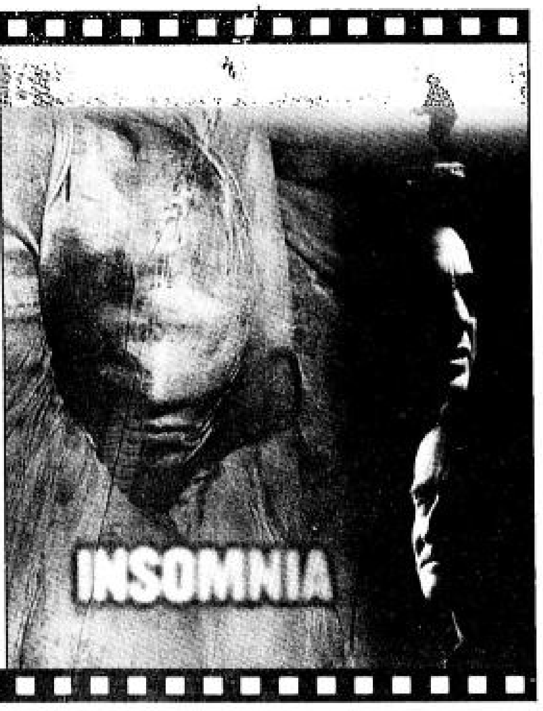
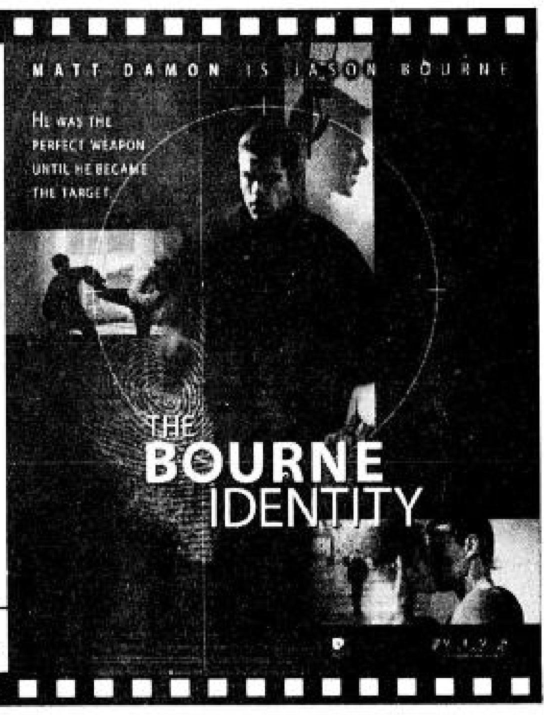
SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 10
MTRCB RATING: P13
Regular showing on August 21 at the SM CINEMAS.



SEE IT FIRST!
SM CINEMA
ADVANCE SCREENING
INVITATIONAL RX 93.1 PREMIERE
on August 20, 2002 • 7:30 pm
SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 3
MTRCB RATING: P13
Regular showing on September 4 at the SM CINEMAS.
Simultaneously shown at
SM Cebu • Iloilo • Davao • Pampanga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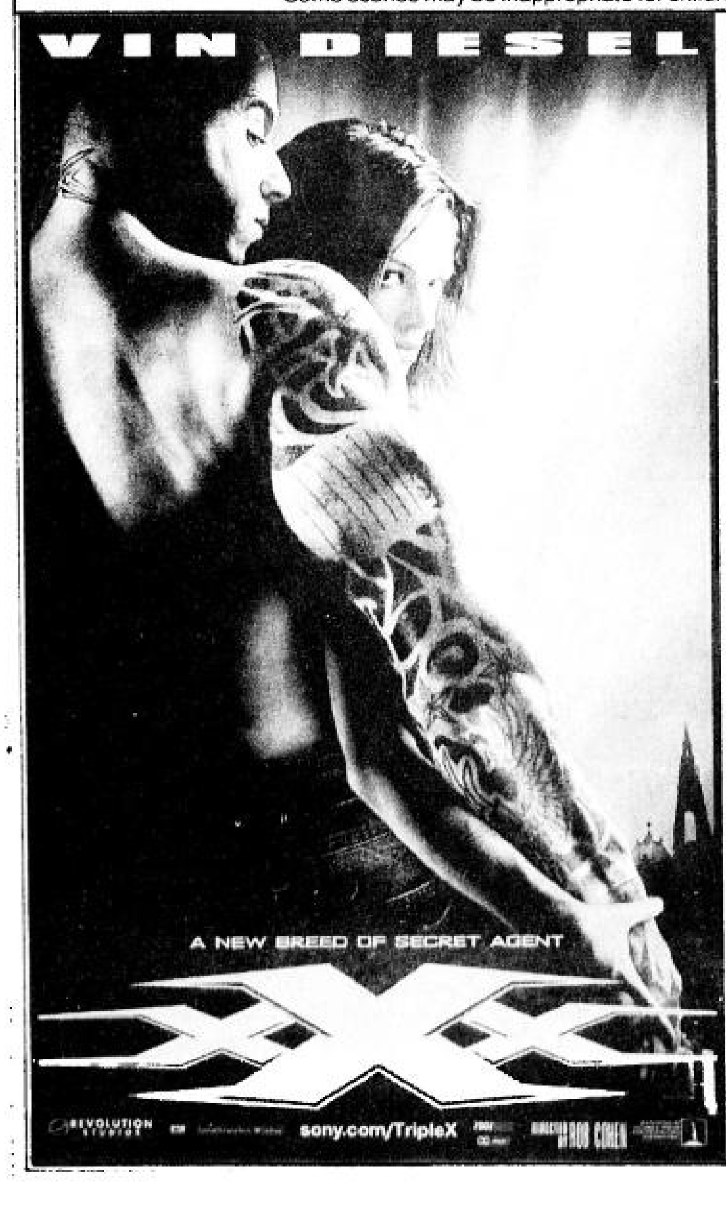

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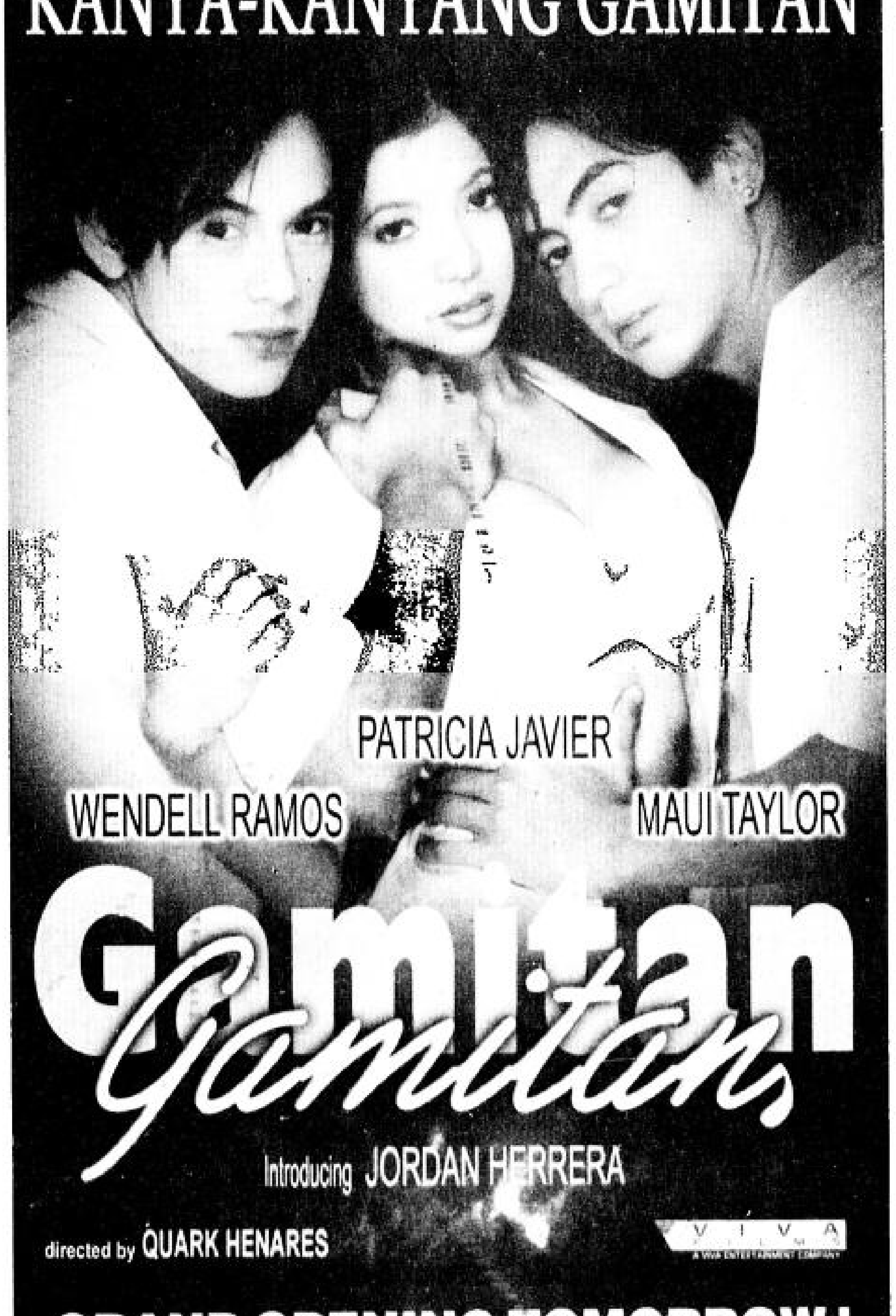

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1 LILO & STITCH	1 LILO & STITCH	1 MAKATI CINEMANILA 2002	1 THE SWEETEST THING 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20	1 LILO & STITCH
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY	2 KILLING ME SOFTLY	2 MAKATI CINEMANILA 2002	2 UNFAITHFUL 12:20, 3:05, 5:50, 8:35, 11:20	2 THE UNFAITHFUL
3 THE SWEETEST THING	3 UNFAITHFUL 1:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30	GARY V. HITS @ ONSTAGE - SEP. 6,20, 26 & 27	3 AMELIE 00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20	3 LILO & STITCH
4 UNFAITHFUL	4 ORANGE COUNTY	JOSE MARI CHAN @ ONSTAGE - SEP. 7 & 14	4 KILLING ME SOFTLY 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	4 ABOUT A BOY
	5 8 LEGGED FREAKS		5 LILO & STITCH 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20	5 SWEETEST THING
	6 THE SWEETEST THING			
	7 ABOUT A BOY			

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7	
8	

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A	

Sunshine
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2	8 LEGGED FREAKS
3	
4	

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2	
3	
4	MAPUPULANG ROSAS
5	LILO & STITCH
6	BIGLANG LIKO
7 (DTS)	UNFAITHFUL
8 (SDDS)	THE SWEETEST THING
9 (DOLBY)	KILLING ME SOFTLY

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2	8 LEGGED FREAKS
3	D' URAGONS
4 (SDDS)	THE SWEETEST THING
5	MAPUPULANG ROSAS
6 (DOLBY)	LILO & STITCH
7 (DTS)	UNFAITHFUL
8	GALING-GALING MO
9	SAGAD

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1 (DTS)	
2	
3	
4	MAPUPULANG ROSAS
5 (SDDS)	LILO & STITCH
6	UNFAITHFUL
7 (DOLBY)	THE SWEETEST THING
8	BIGLANG LIKO

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2	THE SWEETEST THING
3 (DTS)	LILO & STITCH
4	MAPUPULANG ROSAS
5 (SDDS)	UNFAITHFUL

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3	

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1 (DOLBY)	UNFAITHFUL
2	BIGLANG LIKO
3	LILO & STITCH
4	D' URAGONS
5	MAPUPULANG ROSAS

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1	
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5	
6	

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	
2	

Berma
TEL. 879 21 68 / 879 21 67

1	BIGLANG LIKO
2	UNFAITHFUL

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	SAGAD
2	THE SWEETEST THING
3 (DTS)	8 LEGGED FREAKS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	LILO & STITCH
2 (DTS)	MEGIDDO
3 (DOLBY)	THE SWEETEST THING
4	UNFAITHFUL

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	THE SWEETEST THING
2 (DOLBY)	LILO & STITCH
3 (DTS)	UNFAITHFUL
4	MEGIDDO

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	D' URAGONS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	STUART LITTLE 2
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	D' URAGONS
2	SORORITY BOYS
3 (DOLBY)	WINDTALKERS
4 (DTS)	STUART LITTLE 2

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	LILO & STITCH
2	MAPUPULANG ROSAS
3	HUNGER FOR LOVE
4 (DTS)	BIGLANG LIKC

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	UNFAITHFUL
2	SAGAD
3 (DTS)	LILO 7 STITCH
4	THE SWEETEST THING
5	HANGGANG KAILAN AKO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	PAGSALUHAN NATIN
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	LILO & STITCH

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	PAGSALUHAN NATIN
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	THE SWEETEST THING

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	
2	
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	SAGAD
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	GALING-GALING MO..
2	D' URAGONS
3	SAGAD

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

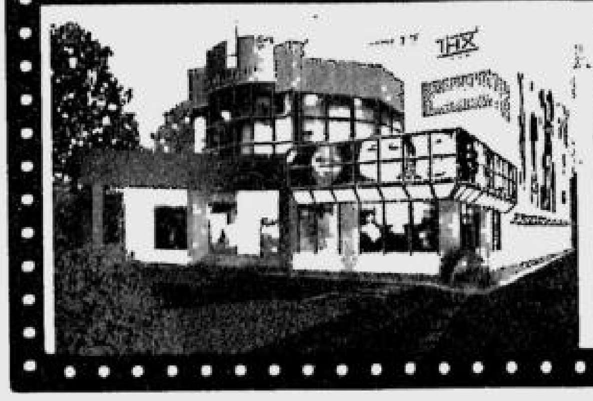
1	D' URAGONS
2	8 LEGGED FREAKS
3	MEGIDDO
4	SAGAD

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

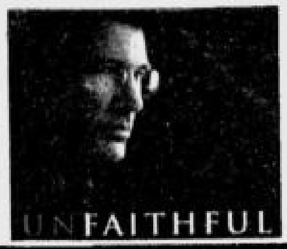
1 (DOLBY EX)	LILO & STITCH
2	THE SWEETEST THING
3 (DTS)	THE UNFAITHFUL
4	MEGIDDO

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS



PREMIERE CINEMA NOW SHOWING
5:00 PM , 7:30PM, 10:00 PM



SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173888

1	UNFAITHFUL
2	D' URAGONS
3	LILO & STITCH
4	SWEETEST THING
5	WINDTALKERS
6	8 LEGGED FREAKS
7	BIGLANG LIKO
8	KILLING ME SOFTLY

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	UNFAITHFUL
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	LILO & STITCH
4	SWEETEST THING
5	ANG GALING GALING MO
6	D' URAGONS
7	8 LEGGED FREAKS
8	WINDTALKERS
9	BIGLANG LIKO
10	STUART LITTLE 2

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	MAPUPULANG ROSAS
2	ORANGE COUNTY
3	STUART LITTLE 2
4	LILO & STITCH
5	KILLING ME SOFTLY
6	D' URAGONS
7	SWEETEST THING
8	UNFAITHFUL
9	WINDTALKERS
10	8 LEGGED FREAKS
11	ANG GALING GALING MO
12	BIGLANG LIKO

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	LILO & STITCH
2	ABOUT A BOY
3	8 LEGGED FREAKS
4	SWEETEST THING
5	UNFAITHFUL
6	WINDTALKERS
7	KILLING ME SOFTLY
8	BIGLANG LIKO
9	D' URAGONS
10	STUART LITTLE 2
11	MEGIDDO
12	ORANGE COUNTY

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	ABOUT A BOY
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	STUART LITTLE 2
4	UNFAITHFUL
5	ORANGE COUNTY
6	WINDTALKERS
7	ANG GALING GALING...
8	8 LEGGED FREAKS
9	SWEETEST THING
10	D' URAGONS
11	LILO & STITCH
12	BIGLANG LIKO

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9285462

1	8 LEGGED FREAKS
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	ORANGE COUNTY
4	BIGLANG LIKO
5	UNFAITHFUL
6	SWEETEST THING
7	WINDTALKERS
8	LILO & STITCH

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	ORANGE COUNTY
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	LILO & STITCH
4	SWEETEST THING
5	ABOUT A BOY
6	D' URAGONS
7	UNFAITHFUL
8	8 LEGGED FREAKS
9	WINDTALKERS
10	BIGLANG LIKO

SM CITY CEBU
2313878

1	WINDTALKERS
2	LILO & STITCH
3	ABOUT A BOY
4	UNFAITHFUL
5	SORORITY BOYS
6	MEGIDDO
7	SAGAD
8	8 LEGGED FREAKS

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	HIGH CRIMES
2	CLOSED
3	ANG GALING GALING...
4	8 LEGGED FREAKS
5	DOG SOLDIERS
6	LILO & STITCH
7	CLOSED
8	MEGIDDO

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	8 LEGGED FREAKS
2	SWEETEST THING
3	MEGIDDO
4	BIGLANG LIKO
5	UNFAITHFUL
6	LILO & STITCH

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	BIGLANG LIKO
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	LILO & STITCH
4	D' URAGONS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	UNFAITHFUL
2	BIGLANG LIKO
3	LILO & STITCH
4	D' URAGONS

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	HIGH CRIMES
2	ABOUT A BOY
3	8 LEGGED FREAKS
4	ANG GALING GALING...
5	WINDTALKERS
6	LILO & STITCH

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1 LILO & STITCH
11:30 MF/1:25/3:20/5:15/7:10/ 9:05/11:00 LMF/12:30 END

2 UNFAITHFUL
11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/ 11:00 LMF/1:05 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 • Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate : P120.00 • After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS

@ Robinsons Malls

NOW SHOWING

Galleria 632- 9115- 16 633- 7641 loc. 279

1 THX	WINDTALKERS
2	THE SWEETEST THING
3	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4	ORANGE COUNTY
5	LILO & STITCH
6	UNFAITHFUL
7	BIGLANG LIKO
8	KILLING ME SOFTLY
9	ABOUT A BOY
10	STUART LITTLE 2

Ermita 536 -7809- 12

1	UNFAITHFUL
2	ORANGE COUNTY
3	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4	THE SWEETEST THING
5	BIGLANG LIKO
6	LILO & STITCH
7	KILLING ME SOFTLY

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1	ABOUT A BOY
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	UNFAITHFUL
4	LILO & STITCH
5	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
6	THE SWEETEST THING
7	WINDTALKERS
8	BIGLANG LIKO

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30

1	KILLING ME SOFTLY
2	LILO & STITCH
3	LILO & STITCH
4	THE SWEETEST THING
5	BIGLANG LIKO
6	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
7	UNFAITHFUL
8	WINDTALKERS

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	LILO & STITCH
3	BIGLANG LIKO
4	THE SWEETEST THING
5	UNFAITHFUL
6	KILLING ME SOFTLY

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459

1	LILO & STITCH
2	MEGIDDO
3	ANG GALING 2 MO BABES
4	DOG SOLDIERS
5	STUART LITTLE 2
6	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78

1	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2	MEGIDDO
3	HIGH CRIMES
4	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
5	LILO & STITCH
6	ANG GALING 2 MO BABES

Star Mills- Sn Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927 961-5318 / 5270

1	MEGGIDO
2	THE SWEETEST THING
3	LILO & STITCH
4	BIGLANG LIKO
5	UNFAITHFUL
6	LILO & STITCH

malabon citisquare- soon to open.

UNFAITHFUL

Late Night Screening
on Aug. 17 - 18, 2002
Friday & Saturday - 11:00 p.m. @ Robinsons Movieworld Galleria

how-2-reach-us:
email: htc@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536- 7812

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

New rock group Monsterbot launches debut album

FAST-RISING OPM rock group Monsterbot will be featured in a special showcase to mark the formal launch of their debut album, "Explosion," under MCA Universal, Aug. 21, 6 p.m. at Xaymaca Bar along Timog Avenue, Quezon City.

The group is composed of former high school classmates from La Salle (Antipolo), who initially acquired a following for their distinct type of music which they played in small gigs during semestral breaks.

They came to be known as "Female Body Explosions" because they always sent girls in hysteria whenever they perform in college fairs.

The group later changed its name to Monsterbot when the boys started to do regular gigs at Mayric's in España and other bards that featured underground music.

A special feature about Monsterbot in NU 107's "Raw" skyrocketed them to indie popularity. Soon after, the group has been often mentioned in mailing lists, like Bandabanda and Philmusic.

Monsterbot is composed of Diego Mapa (guitarist and main songwriter), Karl Claudio (bassist), Glenn San Agustin (vocalist), Ryan Magsumbol (drummer) and Carlo Navarro (keyboardist).

Monsterbot describes their sound as a fusion of indie rock, electronica, rap, hardcore punk, garage techno and even bossanova.

The group is now making its bid to modern rock stardom with their signature song, "Explosion," the title track of their debut album.

A video of the song directed by Quark Henares, is now being aired in several cable channels.

Sexbomb Girls do mall tour

THE SEXBOMB Girls will perform in various malls to promote their debut album, "Unang Putok," under BMG Records Pilipinas.

Catch the phenomenal dance group-turned-singing sensation on Aug. 22 at SM North Edsa, Aug. 23 at SM Fairview, Aug. 25 at Robinson's Novaliches, Aug. 30 at Robinson's Galleria, Sept. 7 at Robinson's Metro East and Sept. 29 at Robinson's Manila.

See Rochelle, Jopay, Izzy, Wend, Monique and Yvette perform the songs from their album live, including the smash hit single, "Bakit Papa" and their latest offering, "Pretty Little Baby."

The Sexbomb Girls are mainstays of the top-rating noontime show, "Eat Bulaga" on GMA 7.

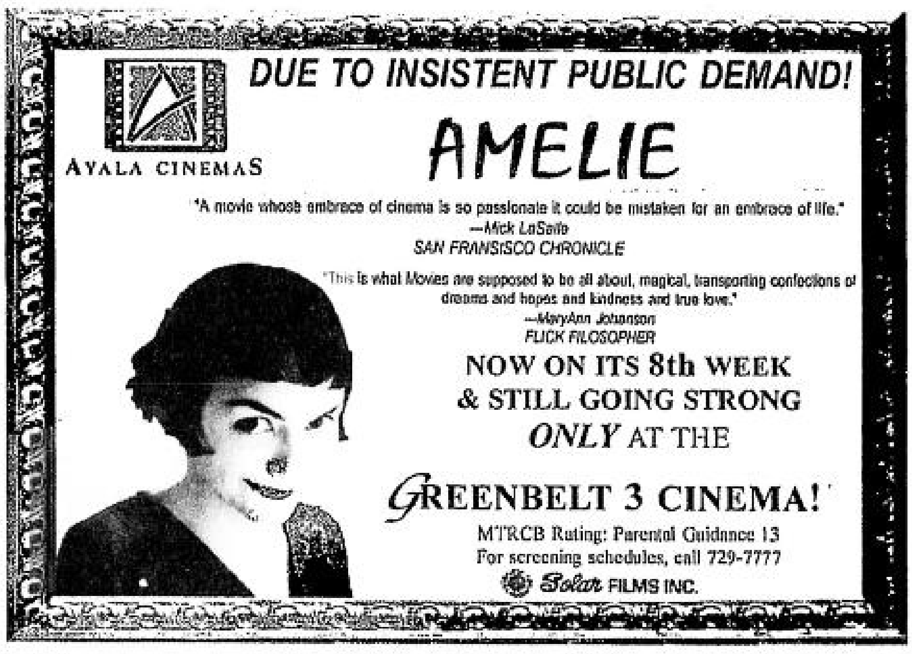
The Girls are also seen in the weekly primetime sitcom, "Daboy and Da Girl," which stars Rudy Fernandez and Rosanna Roces, also on GMA 7.

"Unang Putok" is released with Skechers Sport, Beverly Hills and Co., Petro Rev-X, Leonardo Bags, LG Collins and Ratsky Bar and Restaurant.

AYALA CINEMAS
The Best of CINEMANILA 2002
August 16 to September 3 2002

	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 1	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 2
Aug. 17 (Sat.) 10:30	ACURSES UNKNOWN	THE GIRL FROM PARIS
1:30	69	MANITO
3:30	FRIEND	CENTRAL STATION
6:30	FAST FOOD, FAST WOMEN	WHAT TIME IS IT THERE?
8:30	DOG DAYS	ATANARJUAT
10:30	NO MAN'S LAND	SEAFOOD
Aug. 18 (Sun.) 10:30	BASHU, THE LITTLE STRANGER	FOLLOWING
1:30	ONCE UPON A TIME IN CHINA	FRIEND
3:30	A CITY OF SADNESS	EATING AIR
6:30	ATANARJUAT	WHAT TIME IS IT THERE?
8:30	CENTRAL STATION	A PORNOGRAPHIC AFFAIR
10:30	HOLLYWOOD HONG KONG	QUITTING
Aug. 19 (Mon.) 10:30	WATERBOYS	BASHU, THE LITTLE STRANGER
1:30	EATING AIR	THE GIRL FROM PARIS
3:30	DOG DAYS	FRIEND
6:30	FAST FOOD, FAST WOMEN	SEAFOOD
8:30	69	NO MAN'S LAND
10:30	KIKOJIRU	A PORNOGRAPHIC AFFAIR

AYALA CINEMAS
DR. EVIL
AT ALL AYALA CINEMAS AUGUST 28
AUSTIN POWERS GOLDMEMBER


AYALA CINEMAS
DUE TO INSISTENT PUBLIC DEMAND!
AMELIE
"A movie whose embrace of cinema is so passionate it could be mistaken for an embrace of life."
—Mick LaSalle
SAN FRANSISCO CHRONICLE
"This is what Movies are supposed to be all about, magical, transporting confections of dreams and hopes and kindness and true love."
—MaryAnn Johanson
FLICK FILOSOPHER
NOW ON ITS 8th WEEK
& STILL GOING STRONG
ONLY AT THE
GREENBELT 3 CINEMA!
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
For screening schedules, call 729-7777
Solar FILMS INC.

OPENS TOMORROW!
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
Some scenes may be inappropriate for children under age 13.

VIN DIESEL
A NEW BREED OF SECRET AGENT
xXx
REVOLUTION STUDIOS
sony.com/TripleX
DIRECTED BY ROB COHEN

Non-Stop Wide-Screen Action!

xXx, a new breed of secret agent

After Schwarzenegger and Stallone, comes a new kind of action hero in a new kind of high-adrenaline action-adventure.

Vin Diesel is Xander Cage, a tattooed, buff-to-the-max underground thrill seeker. He is the ultimate Bad Boy... armed with astonishing physical stamina and the attitude to go with it.

After tangling with the law too many times, he is forced to pay his debt to society, going on a dangerous underground mission in Prague.

Recruited by tough veteran agent (SAMUEL JACKSON) of the National Security Agency, Xander must infiltrate a crime ring led by a brutal ex-Russian Army commander.

His secret agent code name: xXx (Triple X).

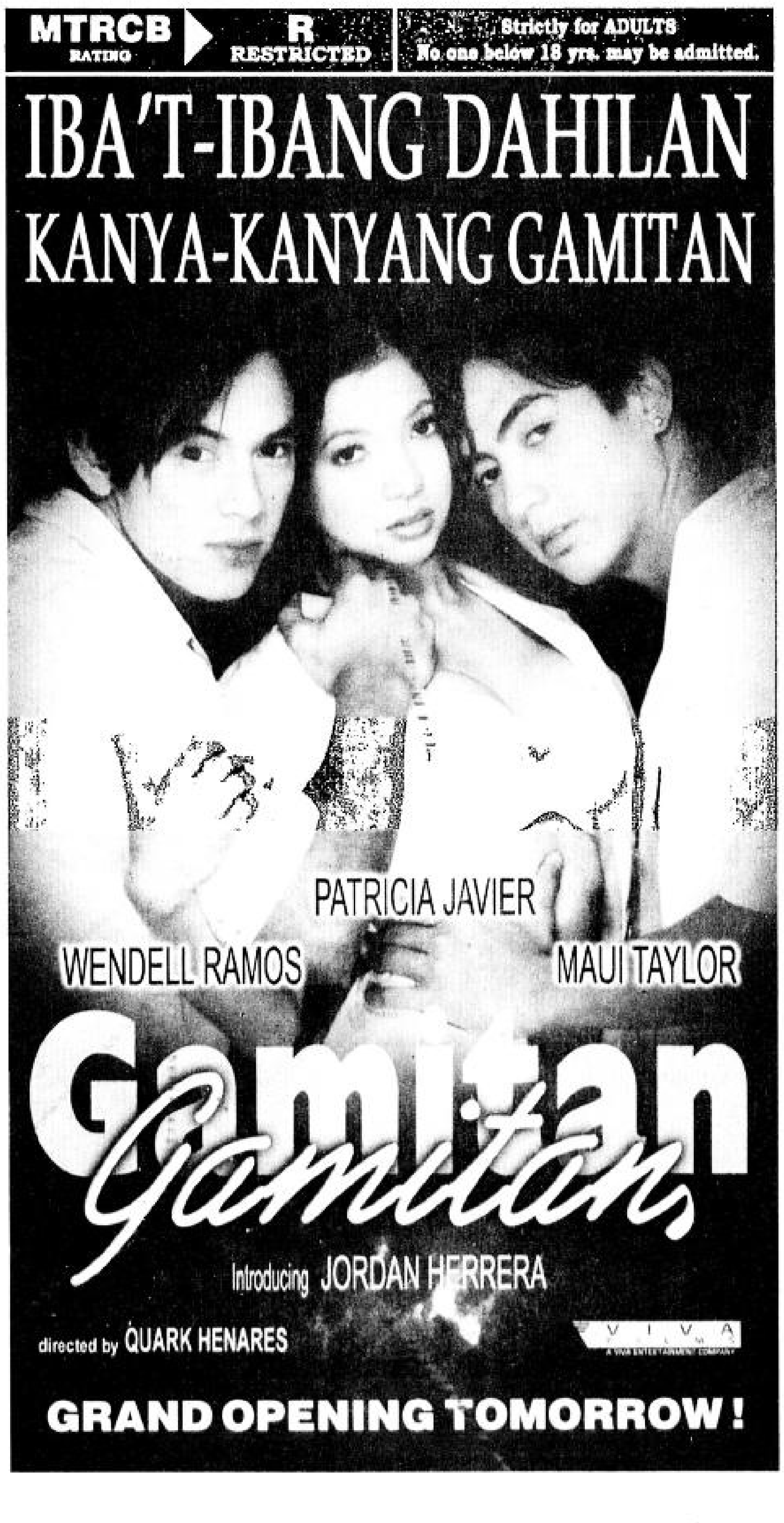
Columbia Pictures presents the biggest slam-bang action picture of the season!

Time Magazine says xXx is "a highly stylized adrenaline rush of a movie." You won't want to miss it.

Only in Cinemas

SEE IT FIRST!
SM CINEMA
ADVANCE SCREENING
INVITATIONAL DWTM PREMIERE
on August 20, 2002 • 7:30 pm
SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 10
MTRCB RATING: P13
Regular showing on August 21 at the SM CINEMAS.
INSOMNIA

SEE IT FIRST!
SM CINEMA
ADVANCE SCREENING
INVITATIONAL RX 93.1 PREMIERE
on August 20, 2002 • 7:30 pm
SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 3
MTRCB RATING: P13
Regular showing on September 4 at the SM CINEMAS.
Simultaneously shown at
SM Cebu • Iloilo • Davao • Pampanga
MATT DAMON IS JASON BOURNE
HE WAS THE PERFECT WEAPON UNTIL HE BECAME THE TARGET.
THE BOURNE IDENTITY

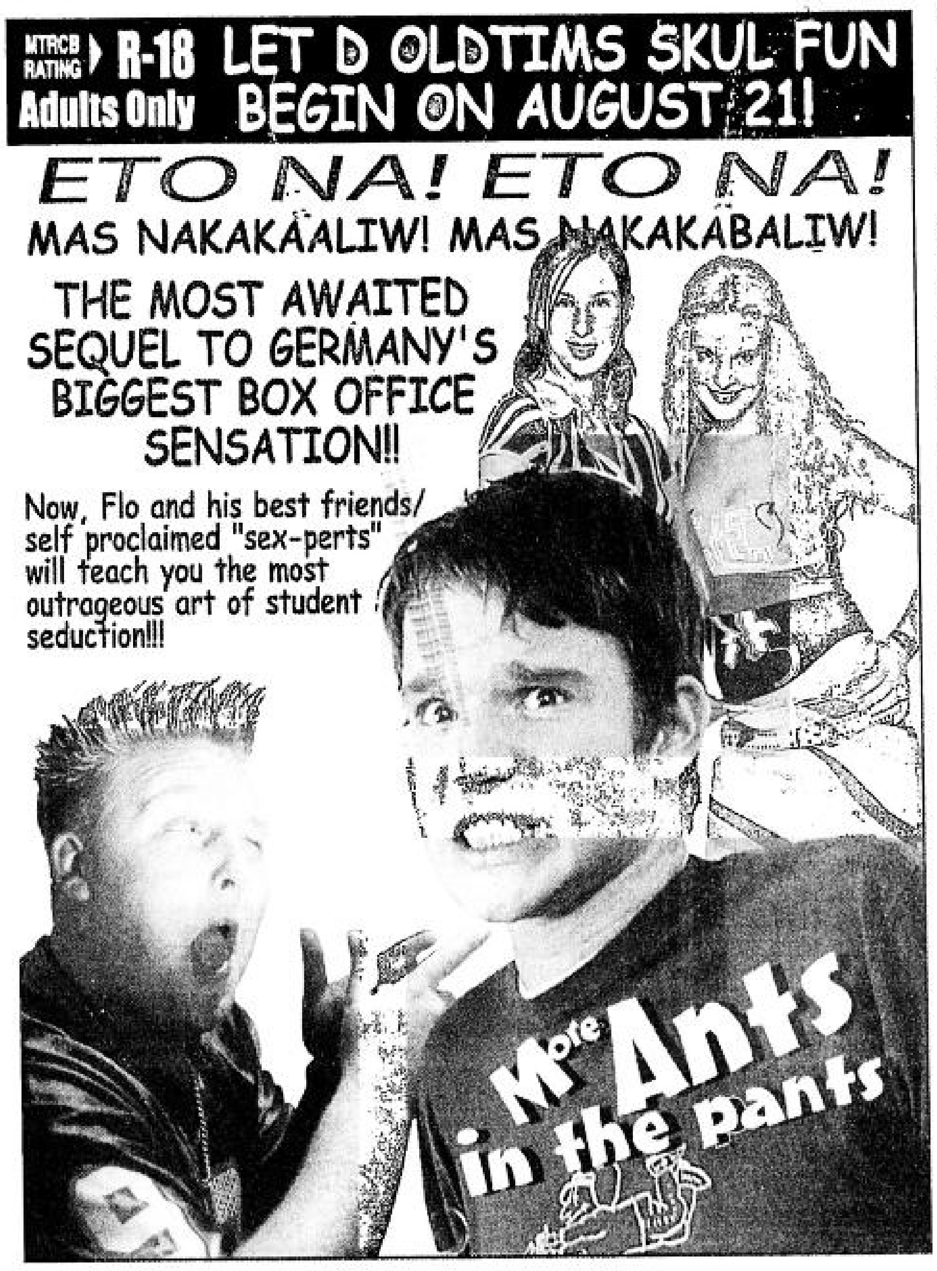

MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
IBA'T-IBANG DAHILAN
KANYA-KANYANG GAMITAN
PATRICIA JAVIER
WENDELL RAMOS
MAUI TAYLOR
Gamitan
Introducing JORDAN HERRERA
directed by QUARK HENARES
VIVA FILMS
GRAND OPENING TOMORROW!

'Playing by Heart' now available on video

C-INTERACTIVE Digital Entertainment releases in video a romantic comedy that warm the heart. "Playing By Heart" brings together Hollywood's big stars such as Sean Connery, Angelina Jolie, Gillian Anderson, Ellen Burstyn, Dennis Quaid, Ryan Philippe, Gena Rowlands, Jay Mohr and Madeline Stowe.

In the film, a group of people of varied generations and lifestyle search for love, and connection in contemporary Los Angeles. Dealers may call 245-5011 to 12.

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-18 Adults Only LET D OLDTIMS SKUL FUN BEGIN ON AUGUST 21!


ETO NA! ETO NA!
MAS NAKAKAALIW! MAS NAKAKABALIW!
THE MOST AWAITED SEQUEL TO GERMANY'S BIGGEST BOX OFFICE SENSATION!!
Now, Flo and his best friends/ self proclaimed "sex-perts" will teach you the most outrageous art of student seduction!!!
More Ants in the Pants

Joey should go easy on Alma

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Ann Carvajal

BY NOW, I guess news about the **Joey Marquez-Kris Aquino** dangerous liaison is already coming out of your ears. But I'm also sure you can never have enough of all the sordid details, huh?

Joey happens to be godfather to my daughter and Kris is godmother to my son. Such coincidence! One of my kids exclaimed: "So maybe this Christmas, their gifts will be signed as one!"

For Kris' sake, I sincerely hope that Joey will start practicing monogamy. Not just when it's convenient or when people are looking but every waking and sleeping hour.

I saw for myself how Joey charmed his way into so many women's hearts only to break those hearts into a million pieces. My bosom buddy **Liezl (Martinez)** used to be an avid Joey Marquez fan when he was a PBA heartthrob.

Joey and I have this running joke that it's his fault I got married hastily. I met my ex-husband through him because they were playing for the same team. When my marriage was falling apart, Joey was my official adviser. He has a way of making you laugh against your will. It's not hard to see why Kris fell for him.

It's not fair to say that Kris is the reason for Joey and **Alma's (Moreno)** split-up. She's more the effect rather than the cause.

I was just a bit appalled by Joey's Alma-bashing. He should be gentleman enough to keep his mouth shut the way he did when news of their separation first broke out. Has he lost his decency completely?

It's ridiculous to bad-mouth our ex-es. If they were that despicable, what were we doing with them for so long in the first place?

Joey can glorify Kris all he wants but he should do so without putting Alma down. Alma's violent reactions may be an act of desperation but aren't most women hysterical during a confrontation?

Perhaps Alma is Joey's karma for all the women he has hurt in the past. This time around he can't get away with it just like that. Alma is not thinking straight at this point in time so the least Joey could do is go easy on her instead of retaliating. The verbal combat has to end somewhere.

Here are some rhetorical questions thrown my way by perplexed show biz watchers.

The rumored affair of Joey Marquez with **Sharmaine Arnaiz** remains unresolved. Why can't Joey and Kris be discreet about their tryst, too? How can Joey claim that Alma's signature isn't needed in their annulment papers?

Does Joey think that he can win the approval of *Tita* **Cory** by indirectly comparing Kris to Alma and saying things such as "I love Kris more because, unlike Ness, she's prim and proper." He should cut clean first.

Is Kris really going to come home for the death anniversary of her dad **Ninoy** on Aug. 21? Why divide the public's attention?

Orient Pearl

I HAD a blast with my best friend (Tita) **Bebot, Beth Tamayo** and **Jay Sonza** at Orient Pearl's album launching. What a power-packed performance! They truly are passionate about their music.

Following a long lull, Orient Pearl reunites with Ivory Records for a much-anticipated comeback with an album aptly titled "Pagbabalik." The group returns with **Naldy Padilla** on vocals, axeman **Leo Awatin, Ryan Gomez** on bass and **Dexter Panlilio** on keyboard, plus **JB Medrano** on drums.

Expect to feel a little pinch in your heart when you hear the carrier single. "Kung Aaminin Mo." Also noteworthy is "My Heart Belongs to You," an acoustic number.

After their gig, Orient Pearl joined us at our favorite hang-out, Cafe Kilimajaro on Timog Avenue. Lead vocalist Naldy (**Robin Padilla**'s cousin) has obviously recovered from his split-up with **Karla Estrada.** He and his angelic fiancee were so lovey-dovey all night.

Catch the band in SM Fairview on Aug. 23, SM Davao on Aug. 25, Robinson's Manila on Aug. 30, SM Cebu on Aug. 31 and SM Iloilo on Sept. 1.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

Entertainment at StarMall

TODAY'S malls are not merely places where people can shop, it is also a venue to meet interesting people and learn new things. StarMall, a recreation hub at the heart of Mandaluyong City, is all that and more.

On Aug 24, Star Mall's second level food court will become the venue of a cooking lesson hosted by the Century Tuna demo team. Watch cooking experts prepare the most delectable tuna-based dishes and get to taste the satisfying creations.

On Aug. 31, BMG Records presents Quwatro, the most promising local boy band touted to be the local counterpart of the American pop group N'Sync. The boys will perform their hit singles "Kung Naging Akin Ka Lang" and "Sasabog Ang Puso Ko," also at StarMall's second level food court.

Laughter and entertainment continue on Wednesdays and Fridays at the third level of StarMall's MRT Bridgeway, with Loi Villarama and friends in an hour-and-a-half of jokes and songs.

A mall can also be a place where tomorrow's superstars are discovered. On Sundays, StarMall's second level food court becomes host to "The Future Voice of the Philippines," a singing contest where talented students between 7 to 12 years old compete for gifts and cash prizes.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	8 LEGGED FREAKS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	D' URAGONS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	SWEETEST THING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	LILO & STITCH
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	UNFAITHFUL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	WINDTALKERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	KILLING ME SOFTLY
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	BIGLANG LIKO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	D' URAGONS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	PAGSAWAAN / 40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
ODEON	UNFAITHFUL
ODEON-2	SELDA / MONSTER BALL
ROBEN	BIGLANG LIKO
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	HART'S WAR / SCORPION KING
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	MAPUPULANG ROSAS
REMAR	BIGLANG LIKO
REMAR-2	MAPUPULANG ROSAS
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BIGLANG LIKO
B	MAPUPULANG ROSAS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	UNFAITHFUL
CINEMA-2	LILO & STITCH
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BIGLANG LIKO
CINEMA-2	MAPUPULANG ROSAS
CINEMA-3	SAGAD
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	D' URAGONS
CINEMA-6	UNFAITHFUL
CINEMA-7	STUART LITTLE 2
CINEMA-8	ABOUT A BOY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	UNFAITHFUL
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ORANGE COUNTRY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	LILO & STITCH
CINEMA-12	SWEETEST THING
CINEMA-14	KILLING ME SOFTLY
CINEMA-15	8 LEGGED FREAKS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-3	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA
CINEMA-5	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-6	SELDA
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

August gigs at Banda Forest

BANDA Forest continues to whip up a party this month.

Check out the bands onstage and the music they're playing.

It's Moonstrucks and Asiano on Aug. 26 (Monday), Arriba on Aug. 20 and 27 (Tuesday), Next Level on Aug. 21 and 28 (Wednesday), Fat Session on Aug. 22 and 29 (Thursday), Route 70 on Aug. 23 and 30 (Friday) and Rated R on Aug. 24 (Saturday).

The band's repertoire consists of Top 40s and new wave to contemporary and house music.

Banda Forest is open from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. on weekdays and 5 p.m. to 3 a.m. on weekends.

Banda Forest is at T.M. Kalaw corner Parade St., Ermita, Manila.

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Sam Elliott
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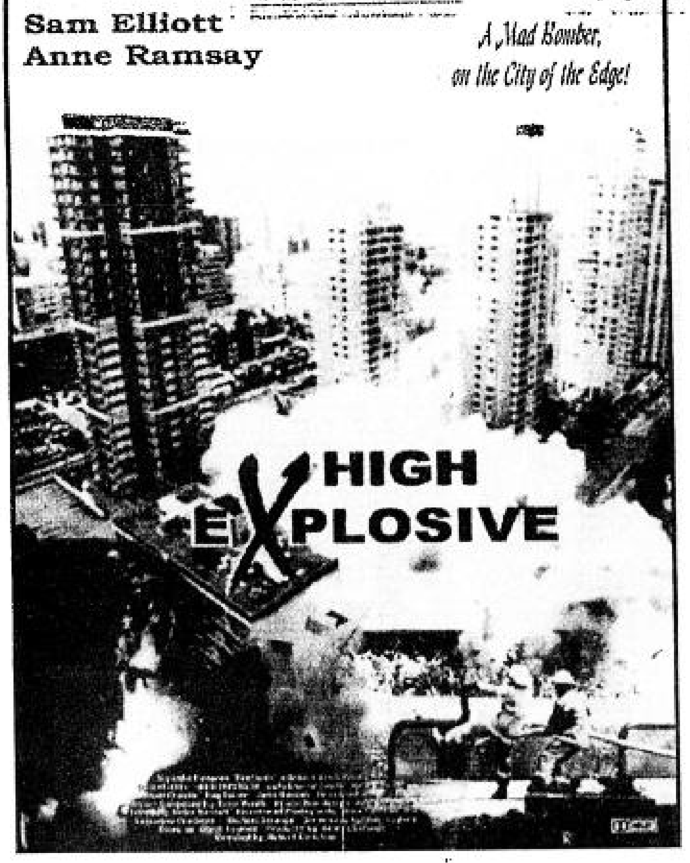

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THE SWEETEST THING R18 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	ORANGE COUNTY P13 12:40, 2:30, 4:20, 6:10, 8:00, 9:50	UNFAITHFUL R18 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

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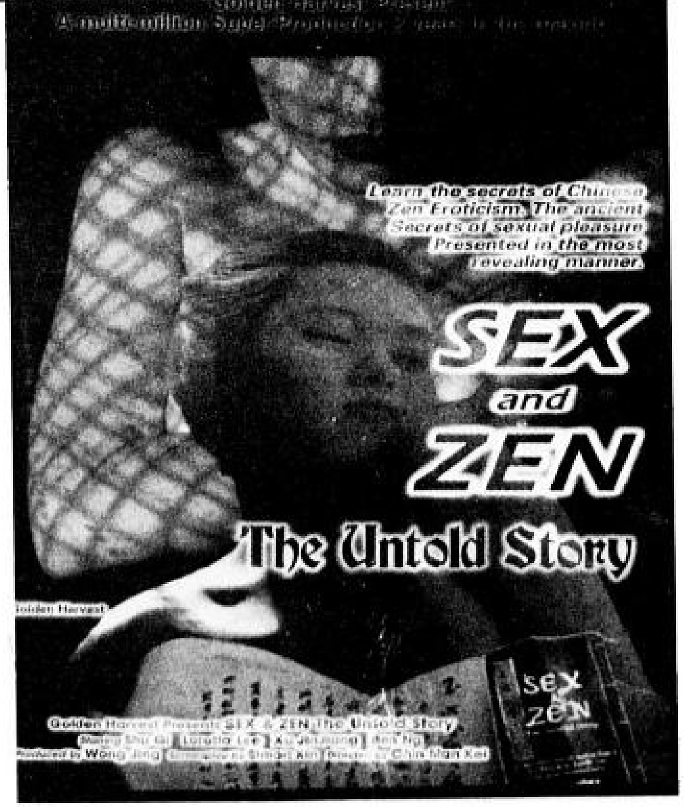

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

ANTHONY Cruz (third from left) with a bevy of ugly ducklings, er, swans

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

'ILLUSIONE . . . ENCORE'

More engaging, funnier, and still very gay

By Alex Y. Vergara

REVIEW

EVEN a multi-million-dollar budget and a cast of thousands can't make up for a poorly written script, and people behind "Illusione . . . Encore" have taken this lesson to heart. At the end of the day, the success of any production, be it one-act play or a lavish Hollywood movie, depends on good writing.

Bahaghari Productions, led by former Miss Universe Margie Moran-Floirendo, can't seem to have enough of a good thing and has restaged the so-called gay musical revue a few months after its first successful run.

There's a twist as early as the opening act, but again, we won't reveal any of the show's gimmicks lest we dampen your viewing pleasure. The show runs until Sept. 1 at the Star Theater, CCP Complex.

This time, seasoned choreographer Douglas Nierras sat in the director's chair and promptly did away with certain elements that tended to drag down—no pun intended—the original production. The result is immediately evident: a more engaging show that was far from preachy and episodic, thanks to Rikki Lopez's on-target writing.

No mishmash

Instead of doing an Oprah Winfrey, the inimitable Arnel Ignacio now portrays facets of himself as he introduces various divas onstage. His peaks and valleys as a gay man become the thread that keeps the entire production from degenerating into a mishmash of a variety show.

Every gay in the house must feel for Arnel's character as he agonizes on whether or not to approach "Mr. Big," an old flame. After a gay person goes through a range of emotions, despair usually sets in as the gay comes face to face with the truth: No matter how hard he tries, he will never be good enough in the eyes of the object of his affection. Arnel shows this, and more even, before the production reaches its climax.

The gay may not even figure in the cad's radar screen, as Arnel's character finds out at the end of the segment.

After chasing Mr. Big, a disheveled Arnel does get what he wants in the end. Still, he feels empty. Why? He may have won the guy's body, but never his heart. Indeed, an all-too-familiar refrain in every gay's life.

Comedic touches

Nierras wisely keeps the production from becoming too melodramatic by spicing it up with comedic touches every now and then. Audiences can't help but snicker after a dazed Arnel emerges from the sidelines wrapped in a bedsheet. Why, he carries, nay, drags, almost the entire production with him! And we're not being figurative here.

Indeed, the production offers plenty of light moments that every gay, especially those hiding in the closet, again can relate to. As a bevy of beauties lip-synchs and gyrates to Abba's "Dancing Queen," a group of "*pamintang durog*" (gays who act straight) is unable to resist the urge and promptly joins their fully made-up sisters.

If anything, the segment captures another truism in the life of a true-blue fairy: Every gay, at one point in his life, dreams of becoming either another Barbra Streisand, Diana Ross, Cher, Nora Aunor or Madonna (yes, these divas, at least their wannabes, with the exception of *Ate* Guy, are all there).

Closet queens

Oh, yes, many in their young lives also fantasize about becoming a Miss Universe someday. Gays in the audience don't have to go far to find one. Margie, the real thing, was there the night we watched it.

> Some numbers work, while some simply fail to thrill viewers the second time around

Nierras' bias shows—but we're not begrudging him for it—as he immediately takes potshots at closet queens early on in the show. As a muscled character vainly attempts to hide his true colors, a Facifica Falayfay lookalike enters the scene and promptly blows his cover: "*Ipokrita! Bakla!*"

Nierras' stamp as a choreographer is very evident in the opening and closing numbers. Most of the divas, however, have to contend with a static set. The harsh lighting at times tend to diminish the illusion.

Spoof

We were expecting an all-new production and were surprised to find certain numbers dusted off and resurrected. Some work, while some simply fail to thrill viewers the second time around. The show's core audience, after all, is composed of the same people who watched the first "Illusione."

We still insist that it's a spoof, not a form of impersonation. To the show's credit, however, the "Swan Lake" segment featuring Nierras as a plump Odette with an attitude still brings the house down. James Cooper, however, should rework his "Diana Ross" act. People have simply seen too much of it to be excited.

The presence of new faces and characters (for some reason we found a long-faced "Celine Dione" funny) more than makes up for the absence of old ones. Most notable among the old ones were "Sharon Cuneta," "Jennifer Lopez" and the unforgettable Pitimini.

Scene stealer

Despite his size, the diminutive Anthony Cruz packs a wallop as he nearly runs away with the show. Whether as a solo performer or as part of the chorus, Cruz is a certified scene stealer.

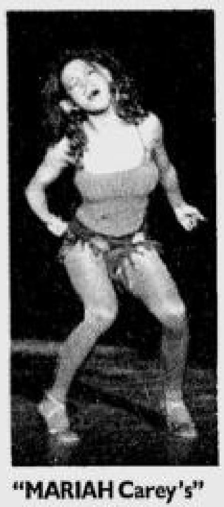
Of course, being vertically challenged is already an advantage, but he also shows exceptional comedic timing and dancing skills that all the more tickle people's funny bones. In fact, he doesn't have to move an inch most of the time to earn belly laughs.

At last, the production now has a "Barbra" complete with a blond wig and prosthetic nose. The character, played by Noel Araos, later morphs into a convincing "Zsa Zsa Padilla," 20 pounds lighter, with no less than a "Dolphy Light" (Cruz) by her side.

Alas, the entire illusion is as fleeting as today's show biz headlines. Before we know it, Arnel's character is again imploring the high heavens for some answers to his larger-than-life quest. The goddesses, of course, oblige, if only through song.

"ZSA Zsa Padilla" (Noel Araos) and "Dolphy Light" (Anthony Cruz)

FEELING pretty: Noel Araos, Anthony Cruz and Paolo Ilao



"MARIAH Carey's" (Paolo Ilao) emotions

BELIEVE in "Cher" (Aira Gueta)

ARNEL Ignacio finds solace from "Tina Turner" (Jimmy Lanawan)

Viewers, film people and the MTRCB

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

NOW that the MTRCB has a new chair, what can film people and audiences expect in terms of movies for the second half of the year?

Some producers' evaluation is that the board of review has become conservative and anti-bold, so sexy films are "out."

On the other hand, new boldies like **Maui Taylor** have been developed, and their films are just about to be screened. So, sexy films will continue to be shown for the time being.

And, after that? If the board is consistently strict, producers will hesitate to fund new bold productions, and opt instead for non-sexy movies to make.

But there are film people who believe that the board's new strictness is a temporary thing, and that it will be pretty much business as usual in the coming months.

Since we aren't fortunetellers, we'll have to wait for developments to see which of these hunches will in fact pan out.

Yet another factor is the industry's reaction to the MTRCB's moves. If they are perceived to be too strict, or unfairly biased against the local films, some industry groups could protest curtailment of film freedom.

This could put the board on the defensive and cause it to dig in its heels, or relax its strictures.

And what about the viewing public? Surely, its reaction is something that the board and our film people can't afford to ignore, because the public's support is needed for any move to gain meaningful strength.

Ideally, all three sectors—viewers, film people and the MTRCB—should find a way to function more or less productively and harmoniously together. But past and present experience doesn't augur well for this to happen.

Each group is perceived to have its own agenda, parts of which are stated, and others of which are hidden. Basically, therefore, there is a lack of trust between the parties involved, and that makes the desired rapprochment difficult to achieve.

For instance, the MTRCB says that it is more focused on protecting minors, and adults should pretty much be left to take care of themselves, because they're supposed to be mature enough to decide things for themselves. Liberal-sounding words, but in actual practice, the board sometimes still treats adults like children.

As for film people, some of them aren't trusted by the board and the public, because they are perceived to use "film freedom" as an excuse to make exploitatively sexy flicks. When, some people ask, has "film freedom" been used this year to make challenging and controversial movies that are *not* sex-oriented?

At the moment, film people are biding their time, seeing if the board's statement are affirmed by its actions. Once the board's actual intent is confirmed, industry groups may act.

In the final analysis, however, the key player here is the viewing public. The perception is that it's gotten tired of so many sexy flicks and is looking for films that inspire. Clearly, both the board and the industry can't afford to ignore viewer's preference, if they expect to get them on their side.

'Sulyap-Sayaw'

THE Kalimulan dance troupe, resident cultural group at the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology in Iligan City, is marking its 14th year with performances from Aug. 23 to 25 at the MSU-IIT gym.

The show, "Sulyap-Sayaw: A Glimpse of Philippine Folk Dances," includes dances from the Mountain Province, Maria Clara Suite, Philippine Rural Dances, and the Mindanao Suite of ethnic dances of the tribal communities in southern Philippines.

"Kalimulan" is coined from *Kalilang* and *Kaamulan*, two of the most famous cultural festivals in Mindanao. Kalilang is a social gathering of the Muslims in Mindanao, while Kaamulan refers to the social gathering of the Lumads or non-Muslim community groups in Mindanao.

Feedback

FROM **Shayne D. Espinosa** of Pasay City: "Some good movies were screened at the Cinemanila 2002 film festival, but now that it's over, we're back to the usual stuff. I hope that the good showing of this year's festival has proven to distributors and producers that there's an audience here for good, festival-quality movies.

"To keep the momentum going, some of the Cinemanila films should be shown in selected metro theaters, and also in other cities in the country. Along with the outstanding films occasionally presented by various embassies, the Cinemanila 'holdovers' can provide local film buffs with welcome alternatives to the usual mainstream movies coming out of Hollywood."

BUSINESS

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ❁ *Assistant Editor* **Corrie S. Narisma**

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Electronics fuel 9.4% surge in June imports

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S import bill rose for the fifth straight month in June by 9.4 percent from a year ago on strong shipment of electronic components, hinting at a sustained expansion in the manufacturing sector for the rest of the year.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the increase in June was much faster than the 3-percent growth in May.

Imports in June hit $2.85 billion while exports in the same month rose by 12.3 percent to $2.89 billion, the NSO said in a statement.

This brought the trade surplus for that month to $41 million, a sharp reversal from the $31-million deficit posted in June 2001.

Total imports for the first six months of 2002 rose 4.4 percent over last year to $15.92 billion, the NSO said.

Exports in the first half of 2002 rose 4.3 percent to $16.67 billion, bringing the trade surplus for that period to $748 million, up 2 percent from the same period last year, the NSO added.

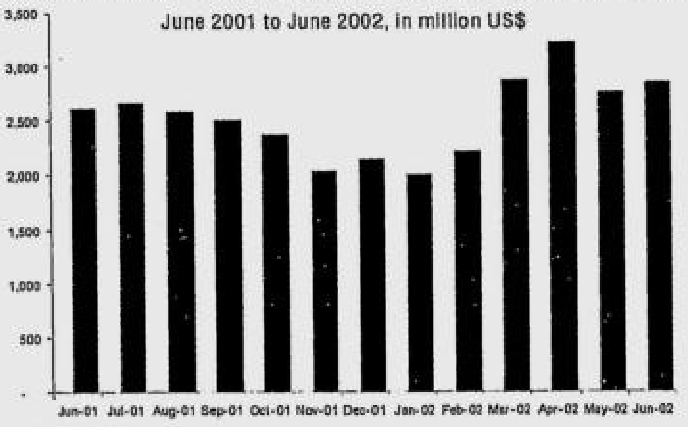
Mel Nicholas, monitoring chief of the official Bureau of Import Services, said the rise in imports showed that the economy was bouncing back with industries buying more raw materials to meet increased orders.

"The economy is moving (forward) slowly. Most of the industries are getting their inventory moving so they have to replace their inventory," he said.

Michael Ricafort, analyst for Equitable-PCI Bank, said that "higher imports reflect anticipation for sustained growth in exports in the coming months," de-

ELECTRONICS/ B3

TOTAL IMPORTS

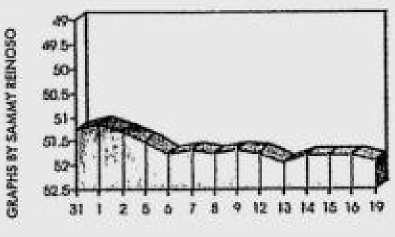


SOURCE: NSO

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.91 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 19, 2002

¥118.20 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 19, 2002

GOLD: $312.90/313.40
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 19, 2002

STOCK MARKET

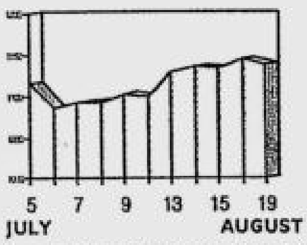
Shares down 0.6%

SHARE prices closed 0.6 percent lower yesterday due to renewed concerns about the country's ballooning budget deficit, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index dropped 6.68 points to 1,136.89.

"Investors are staying on the sidelines, thinking the run-up last week may have been (too) fast," said Rommel Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

SHARES/ B4

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Silent knight

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

UH-OH, close the windows, lock the doors, hide under the bed—Sen. Sergio Osmeña III is concerned over something.

You can do anything, such as wear bright Hawaiian shirts, minus the grass skirts, of course, and then create a big political stir by resigning from DepEd irrevocably.

Do anything, but you just don't ever make a senator, er, concerned. When a senator becomes concerned, he or she usually calls for a concerned Senate investigation.

Then you will never hear the end of it. Media pounce on it every day. The issue which Osmeña wants the media to pounce on every day is the "Impsa-gate."

At the center of that cover-up controversy, based on a series of articles by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, is Energy Secretary Vincent Perez.

The guy is one of the Wall Street-type knights in shining armor in the economic round table of this cute administration. On the Impsa issue, Perez is a very silent knight.

* * *

RECENTLY, Vince "the Silent Knight" Perez said—or should I say "wrote"—in a press statement that Napocor's giving a lot of our tax money to Impsa was . . . well, justified.

Impsa is the Argentine company which treated us to a lot of controversy during the time of Kuya Eddie and that of the man named Band . . . Wrist Band.

Through unsolicited advice . . . *este*, proposal, Impsa got a contract from Napocor to rehabilitate the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan hydro power plant complex in Laguna.

Napocor already paid Impsa a fantastic sum of $50 million for work in the CBK complex. The only problem was, nobody could say what the work actually was.

To get an idea of what Impsa actually did in the complex, Perez spent a little amount out of—again—our tax money for an independent audit. It cost only P1.3 million.

The money went to the New Zealand engineering consultancy firm Meritec, which found the $50-million payment to Impsa justified, according to the Silent Knight.

* * *

APPARENTLY, Vince the Silent Knight believed the Meritec finding. He even issued a press statement on it. After all, he paid for it at a bargain price of only P1.3 million.

But Serge "the Concerned" Osmeña, upon hearing about the report, asked Napocor for a copy. He got all 15 pages of the Meritec report. Again—that's 15 pages.

Serge the Concerned wondered if he actually got a "complete" report. Remember, this is a technical audit report, and reports like that can usually fit an entire bodega.

He most know something about the report that we don't. Perhaps Napocor was under time pressure, and thus, finished or not finished, it was told to pass on the report.

Perhaps Napocor did not mean to send him an incomplete version of the Meritec report. Then again, Napocor could be hiding several pages from him.

If I still know my arithmetic, P1.3 million divided by 15 pages equals more than P88,000 per page. What a terrific bargain! Can I have some of those myself?

* * *

SERGE the Concerned wrote Vince the Silent to confirm whether the documents he got from Napocor were complete. No answer. Hmm. Now that's a man true to his name.

Based on the series of articles by the PCIJ, the version of the Meritec report which Vince the Silent made public may not be the full original version.

The PCIJ claimed that Vince the Silent's own Department of Energy did not disclose ALL of Meritec findings on the CBK issue.

For example, the PCIJ series noted that, in the first 18 months of the contract, Napocor already paid Impsa the $50 million for . . . well, "capital recovery fee."

Whatever living thing that is under the planet, the point is, Napocor gave Impsa $50 million of our money, when Impsa only invested $9 million—up to this very day!

It was, in other words, an advance payment. Or it was as simple as an OVERpayment. Yet Vince the Silent would still not say a thing.

* * *

BASTA, as far as he was concerned, as Vince the Silent said—or wrote—in the press statement, Napocor's payments to the famous Impsa were justified, as per Meritec.

At a bargain price of P88,000 per page, the Meritec report could at least tackle all the issues, as the energy department would see them to be.

Yet, in the letter of Serge the Concerned to Vince the Silent, it was noted the Meritec report did not address certain issues in the scope of the audit.

For example, the Meritec report did not say how much Impsa already spent for the project, when Napocor issued to Impsa a certificate of completion.

Or at least the version of the Meritec report which Napocor sent to the Senate did

BREAKTIME/ B5

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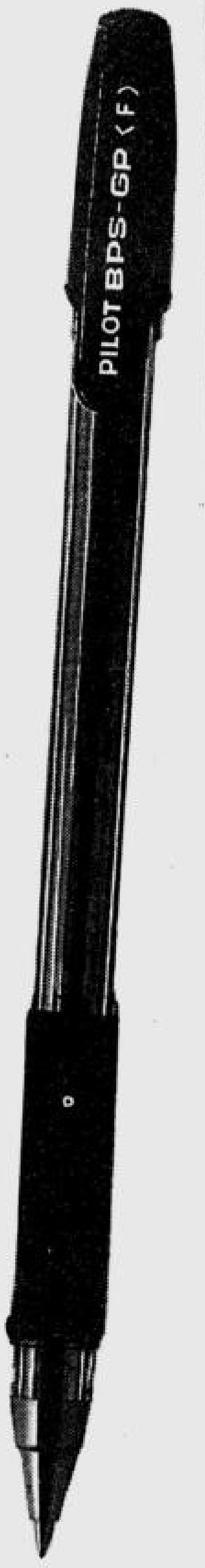

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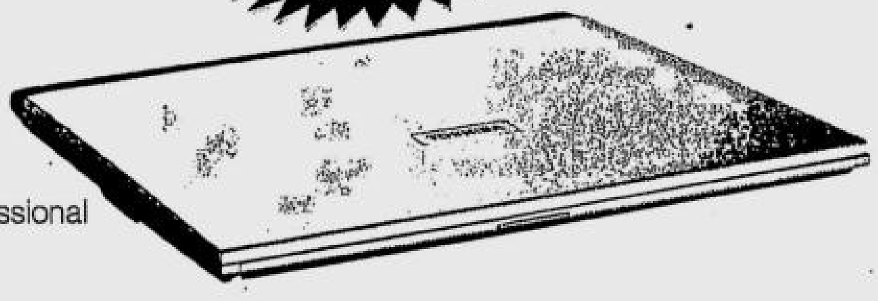

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Gov't gives in; T-bill rates rise

By Clarissa S. Batino

TREASURY bill yields rose modestly yesterday, with the benchmark 91-day rate rising by 10 basis points to 4.978 percent on reports that the government had breached its full-year budget deficit target of P130 billion in July.

Some traders also blamed mixed signals sent by the resignation of Internal Revenue Commissioner Rene Bañez for pushing rates upward.

Bañez resigned yesterday, accusing his subordinates of having "sabotaged" his reforms and causing revenues to sag. His departure comes amid growing concerns over poor tax collection and a ballooning deficit.

The yield of the 182-day debt paper rose by 4.5 basis points to 5.851 percent in yesterday's auction, while the 364-day T-bill rate went up by 16.7 basis points from 5.856 percent, where it had been nailed since a month ago.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the auction committee decided to accept "reasonable" bids to take some steam off the market, considering financial players had been signaling a desire for longer-term government securities.

The government awarded the entire P3.5 billion worth of tenders for the 91-day bill and partially accepted bids for the two other tenors. It raised about P6.3 billion out of the P9 billion worth of government securities it placed on auction yesterday.

"We have to take some of the pressure from the market by accepting bids that were reasonable without unduly pushing the rates up," Edeza said.

One trader said the market found no comfort from the statement of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho over the weekend that the government would be able to keep interest rates low even if the budget deficit exceeds P130 billion.

Camacho told reporters that there would be no change in the government's low interest rate policy even if the deficit hits P156 billion by year's end.

He added that aggressive and timely borrowings allowed the government to raise the money to finance a higher deficit without putting pressure on interest rates.

In June, he disclosed, the government raised some P63 billion from the sale of three- and five-year retail bonds against expected proceeds of only P10 billion.

With a report from AFP

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Washington extends RP's GSP privileges for 5 years

THE PHILIPPINES will continue to enjoy until 2006 duty-free access of some of its key products to the United States following Washington's decision to extend the country's eligibility under the so-called Generalized System of Preferences, or GSP.

In a letter to Bureau of International Trade Relations director Ramon Kabigting, Philippine Trade and Investments Center director Roseni Alvero reported that the United States renewed the Philippines' eligibility for preferential GSP tariffs for five years retroactive to September 2001.

US President George W. Bush gave his approval early this month in the form of a rider to the US Omnibus Trade Bill, Alvero said.

Intergovernmental negotiations held under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development resulted in the adoption of the GSP, whereby preferential tariff treatment is granted on a non-reciprocal and non-discriminatory basis by most developed countries to exports from developing countries.

Specific products are allowed to enter the markets of preference-giving countries with most-favored-nation duties reduced or eliminated.

PTIC's Alvero said Washington introduced two key amendments in choosing which countries were eligible for GSP privileges.

The United States has decided to exclude countries that do not support its anti-terrorism efforts, except when the US president determines that helping a non-ally is in the United States' interest, she said.

Washington is also coming down hard on child labor, specifically banning slavery or forced labor during armed conflicts, drug trafficking and pornography, and hazardous jobs.

Alvero said the Philippines could encounter some problems with the second amendment.

"The US has, in the past, made statements concerning child labor in the Philippines."

Last year, the Philippines shipped to the United States $676 million worth of products covered by preferential GSP tariffs. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

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Bank lending down 3.7%

BANK lending dropped 3.7 percent in June—the biggest contraction since 1998—as banks continued to shy away from aggressive financing to contain their problematic accounts.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that from P1.425 trillion in June last year, commercial bank lending slipped to P1.374 trillion in June this year.

This level was only slightly better than P1.348 trillion in outstanding loans in 1998, when credit contracted by 4.8 percent.

Outstanding loans in June was 2.7 percent lower compared to P1.414 trillion in May.

Bank lending has been on the decline since August 2001 and has only shown a slight recovery of 0.1 percent in March.

Credits have refused to respond to the drop in the central bank's overnight rates to 10-year lows and the modest domestic interest rates environment.

Overnight rates were down to 7 percent for borrowing and 9.25 percent for lending as of March 15, while the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate remained below 5 percent.

Both rates influence bank lending, but borrowers claim that financial institutions continue to charge double-digit rates.

Apart from banks' cautious lending stance, there remains excess capacity of one-fourth of the total capacity of the manufacturing sector as weak demand is holding back needs for additional bank financing.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the central bank would like to see a 10-percent improvement in bank lending in the coming months to help bring down the ratio of problematic accounts to a single-digit level from 18.06 percent as of June.

Electronics . . .

From page B1

spite the recent economic slowdown in the United States, the country's main trading partner.

Most of the imports were raw materials rather than consumer goods, an indication of improving demand for the country's export industries, many of which rely on imported inputs.

Electronic components used in the country's electronics and semiconductor industry made up the biggest single import in June, growing by 41.4 percent to $759.97 million or 26.64 percent of the total.

The robust growth in electronics, in turn, jacked up the payments for raw materials and intermediate goods, which accounted for 40.1 percent of the total bill. It was up by 17.8 percent year on year at $1.14 billion.

Capital goods, led by telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery, which comprised 38.7 percent of the bill, likewise expanded by 1.9 percent to $1.1 billion.

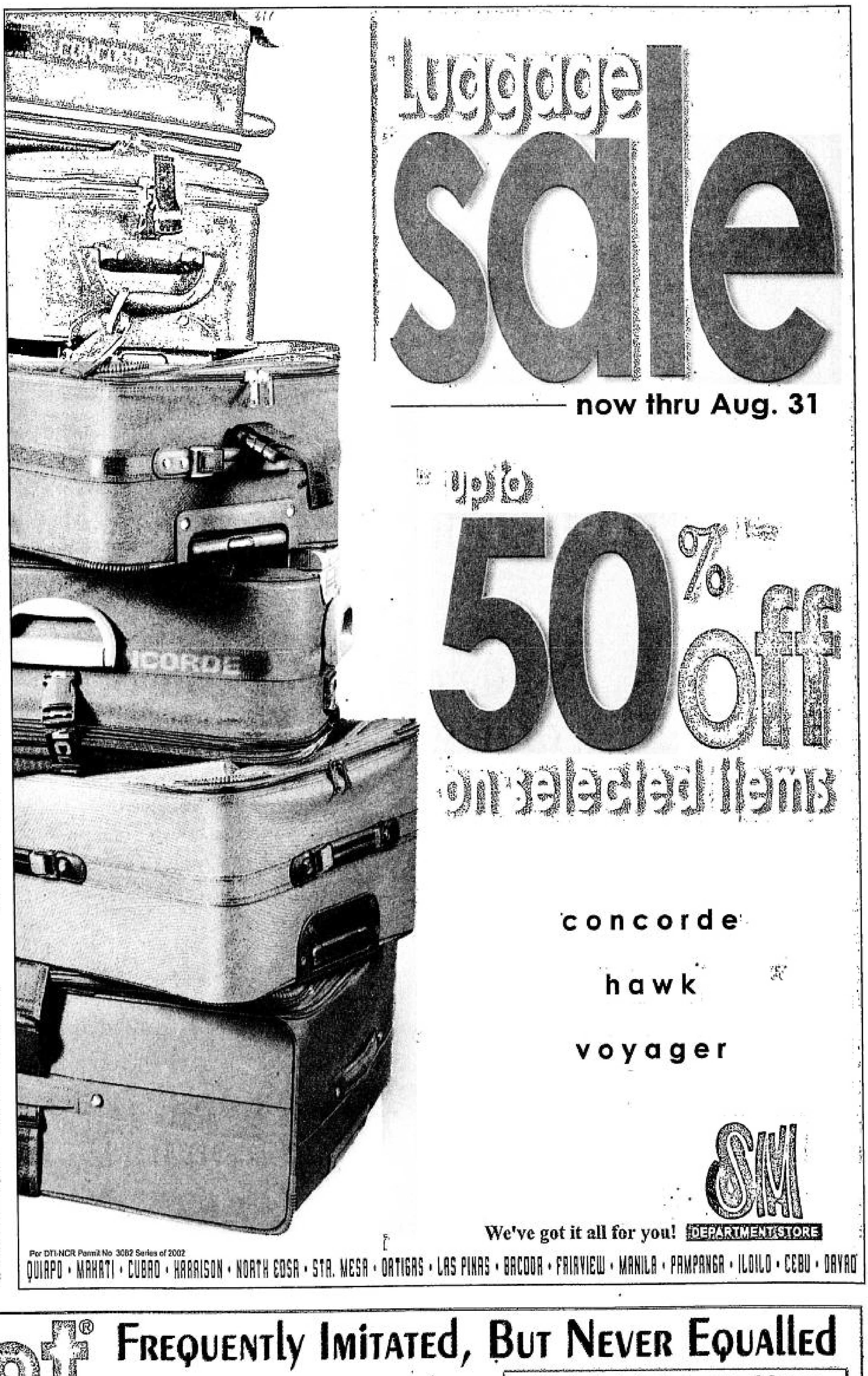
Japan was the single biggest source of imports, accounting for 20.13 percent of all imports in June with the United States second with 18.57 percent.

Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas yesterday said the faster growth in imports was indicative of the sustained turnaround by the manufacturing sector, which was badly hit by the US-led global slowdown last year.

"It seems that the recovery of the country's major merchandise exports is continuing and these include semiconductors and electric components," Canlas said.

"As a result of recovery of exports we're also seeing a recovery in manufacturing," he said.

With improved contribution from manufacturing, which is part of the industry sector, Canlas expressed confidence that the government would meet its full-year target growth of 4-4.5 percent in gross domestic product.



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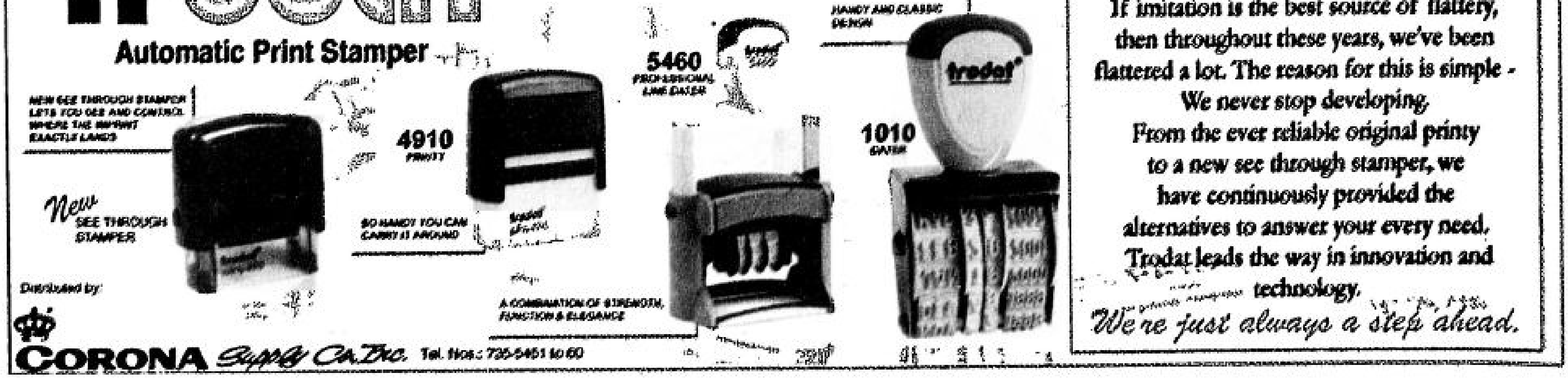
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MRT consortium to raise $378M

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE SECURITIZATION of the bulk of the Metro Rail Transit's (MRT) rental fees over the next 25 years is expected to yield as much as $378 million in up-front cash for consortium members which they can use to pay for their equity share in the second phase of the railway project and retire some of their debts.

This was revealed by MRT chair Robert John L. Sobrepeña who said the MRT bonds should open the doors for other asset-backed securities (ABS) offerings for corporations seeking alternative capital raising measures.

MRT consortium members—Fil-Estate Group, Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp., Railco Investments, Sheridan LRT Holdings and DBH Inc.—which held a combined 77-percent share, recently formed MRT III Funding Corp. Ltd. where they transferred their share of the rental payments from the Department of Transportation and Communication over the next 25 years from the Edsa MRT. Their partners Ayala Land Inc. and Allante Realty chose not to participate in the ABS float.

The group tapped PentaCapital Investment Corp. as financial adviser and manager for the issuance of MRT III Funding Corp. Ltd. asset-backed notes with an estimated value of $378 million based on the projected $800,000 to $1 million monthly rent from the DOTC. The bonds will be offered in three series—Series 1 covers the principal and interest notes maturing August 2007; Series 2 covers zero-coupon notes with annual maturity from 2008 to 2014, and Series 3 covers the period 2015 to 2025.

PentaCapital said it was still waiting for the ratings from international credit risk watchers such as Fitch on the initial float of $5 million before going full blast in selling the bonds to the public. The bonds are expected to generate yields of 11 to 13 percent a year.

PentaCapital estimated that the consortium would need at least $100 million in new money to finance the members' equity participation in the $214 million, 5-km MRT phase 2 project that would connect the Edsa MRT to the LRT Line 1.

The bonds have the potential to raise another $278 million for the consortium members which they could use to retire their debts or strengthen their current operations.

While the Edsa MRT bonds were not the country's first ABS offering (Citibank had issued ABS notes previously), Sobrepeña said they were the country's biggest. He said this should generate more interest in ABS as alternative financing for companies at a time when the stock market was down and banks were too stringent on their loans.

Sobrepeña said Line 2 should further enhance the viability of the Edsa MRT because the full integration of the railway lines in Metro Manila was expected to further boost traffic volume at the Edsa MRT, which has a daily load of 300,000 commuters.

LRT 1 runs from Monumento to Baclaran while the Edsa MRT line stops at LRT's Taft Avenue station. The extension would allow commuters access to both lines and enable Edsa MRT to capture a sizable chunk of passengers from north Metro Manila.

Urban brokerage seeks equity hike exemption

By Elena R. Torrijos

URBANCORP Securities Inc. is asking the Securities and Exchange Commission to exempt the stock brokerage firm from the regulatory agency's P100 million paid-up capital requirement.

In a letter to the SEC, USI nominee-director and Export and Industry Bank vice chair Reynaldo David explained that while EIB, as the successor parent of USI, was bound to support the brokerage firm's operations, the bank had commitments to provide and maintain required liquidity for the liability servicing plan under the rehabilitation plan for Urban Bank and Urbancorp Investments Inc.

Under the servicing plan, EIB must pay deposits and other liabilities of the UBI and UII within a three- to six-year period.

Given the plan, David asked the SEC that USI be allowed to maintain its present paid-up capital of P50 million until the end of the six-year period that EIB was required to focus on meeting the liability servicing plan requirement.

EIB decided to reactivate USI in line with the group's business program.

EIB absorbed UBI and UII under a rehabilitation plan approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the SEC last year.

UBI was closed by the BSP on April 26, 2000, when it encountered liquidity problems after bailing out its affiliate and USI's then parent, UII.

UII suffered massive pre-termination of placements by investors following the Wincorp fiasco.

Under the rules of the SEC, stock brokerage firms that do not renew their licenses because they have suspended their operations must meet a P100-million capital requirement. The SEC, however, has the power to grant exemptions to the rule.

SEC registers ₱2B worth of new Ayala Fund shares

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the registration of P2 billion worth of additional shares for Ayala Life Fixed Income Fund Inc. to bring its authorized capital base to P9 billion from P7 billion.

SEC documents showed that Ayala Fund would use the net proceeds from the sale of the P2 billion worth of shares to the public to buy securities in line with the fund's investment policies and objectives.

The shares of Ayala Fund are offered for sale to the public at a minimum subscription of P100,000 for each new application.

The additional P2 billion in shares registered with the SEC covers 20 million common shares with a par value of P100.

The Ayala Life Fixed Income Fund is managed by Bank of the Philippine Island's asset and trust management group.

With more than P100 billion in assets managed, BPI Asset Management is the largest local player in trust and fiduciary business.

In a briefing with reporters last week, BPI Asset Management said that its strategy would be to invest the funds or assets it manages in short- to medium-term government securities and build up its holdings in Philippine sovereign debt securities.

PLDT net profit seen hitting ₱5.6B this year

By Abigail L. Ho

DOMINANT carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. is seen to post a net income of more than P5.6 billion this year as its earnings momentum continued to be positive, international brokerage ING Financial Markets said.

In its Aug. 2 report, ING said the P2.8-billion net income that the telecommunications firm reported in the first half was "better than expected."

"The results are slightly better than expected, considering that PLDT fully expensed P518 million of a tender premium related to the pre-payment of bonds due in 2003 and 2004, and Smart (Communications Inc.) accelerated depreciation of its analog network, resulting in about P200 million of additional depreciation charges," it said.

Smart, the company's cellular subsidiary and also its cash cow, registered a 34-percent surge in net income to almost P2.4 billion in the first six months of the year.

ING said Smart's net income for the semester was in line with the brokerage's P5-billion end-2002 forecast, despite the company's decision to fully depreciate its analog/CDMA (code division multiple access) network by year's end.

With this decision, the company incurred about P200 million in additional depreciation charges, which was not included in ING's earlier forecast.

Also, Smart is still seen to hit ING's P5-billion net income forecast despite significantly slower growth in subscriber numbers.

But even though the wireless operator was able to keep its ARPU steady against the backdrop of slow subscriber base growth, its high churn rate, or number of disconnections, had shot up to 3.8 percent a month in the first half from only one percent in the same period last year.

ING noted that this was "a source of concern," resulting in the company's jacking up its marketing expenses by as much as 42 percent.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, August 19, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16	16.25	16	16.25	81,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45	45.5	45	45.5	123,700
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	540
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28	28	27	27	1,089,300
Global Business Bank Inc.	63	66	63	66	8,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	36.5	36.5	36.5	36.5	209,700
Security Bank Corp.	13.75	14	13.75	14	2,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	1,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.32	100,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1220	1230	1220	1230	2,850
Sun Life Financial Serv.	920	920	915	920	540
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Globe Telecom Inc.	495	495	490	490	310
Ipeople Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	100,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	2,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	1,000,000
Piltel	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	60,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	297.5	300	297.5	297.5	31,570
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	1,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19	19.25	18.75	19.25	21,300
Manila Electric Co. B	30	30.5	30	30	494,900
Petron Corp.	1.68	1.72	1.68	1.72	1,198,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.5	2.55	2.48	2.5	257,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	20,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	200,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	6,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.24	2.24	2.24	2.24	25,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	229,500
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	33	33	32.5	33	5,400
RFM Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.78	0.78	650,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48.5	49	48.5	49	37,900
San Miguel Corp. B	53.5	53.5	53.5	53.5	45,700
Universal Robina Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	2,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	89,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.54	100,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	35,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	2,150,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	7,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.56	1.56	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.25	430,700
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.46	1.4	1.46	165,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	3,860,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	870,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	400,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	130,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	200,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22	22	22	22	300,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	500
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	4.55	4.55	4.55	4.55	5,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6.1	6	6	144,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.21	700,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	7,750,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.92	1.92	1.9	1.9	3,768,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.76	1.8	1.76	1.8	130,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.15	0.155	0.15	0.155	160,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	300,000
SM Development Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	4,331,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	500,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	8,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	1,000,000
OIL					
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	140,000

DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of **Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.** approved the company's manual on corporate governance.

* * *

EEI Corp. reported an unaudited consolidated net income of P4.7 million for the first six months of 2002.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Marine Inc. reported an unaudited net income of P36.1 million for the first half of the year.

* * *

EBECOM Holdings Inc. moved to a later date its annual stockholders' meeting due to lack of quorum.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Macondray Plastics Inc.** approved the company's manual on corporate governance and elected Regina Santos as corporate information and compliance officer.

* * *

A.SORIANO Corp. decided to retire more than 535 million of its treasury shares since it cannot be a source of fund in the future considering its prevailing market price fell to half its average cost of P1.11 per share.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

Aug. 19, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.015228	1.000000	51.8390
Japan	Yen	0.008628	0.008499	0.4406
United Kingdom	Pound	1.562437	1.539000	79.7802
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130159	0.128207	6.6461
Switzerland	Franc	0.682048	0.671817	34.8263
Canada	Dollar	0.651079	0.641313	33.2450
Singapore	Dollar	0.581293	0.572574	29.6817
Australia	Dollar	0.552956	0.544662	28.2347
Bahrain	Dinar	2.693057	2.652661	137.5113
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.270721	0.266660	13.8234
Brunei	Dollar	0.579799	0.571102	29.6054
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000116	0.000114	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.024293	0.023929	1.2405
UAE	Dirham	0.276425	0.272279	14.1147
Korea	Won	0.000861	0.000848	0.0440
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.985000	51.0614
Argentina	Real	0.279677	0.275482	14.2807
Brazil	Real	0.321275	0.316456	16.4048
Denmark	Kroner	0.134646	0.132626	6.8752
India	Rupee	0.020933	0.020619	1.0689
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.267201	0.263193	13.6437
Mexico	New Peso	0.103489	0.101937	5.2843
New Zealand	Dollar	0.473410	0.466309	24.1730
Norway	Kroner	0.135282	0.133253	6.9077
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017120	0.016863	0.8742
South Africa	Rand	0.095994	0.094554	4.9016
Sweden	Kroner	0.108487	0.106860	5.5395
Syria	Pound	0.019751	0.019455	1.0085
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030180	0.029727	1.5410
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000744	0.000733	0.0380

Shares down 0.6%

From page B1

"Of course they are also waiting for the budget deficit figure to come out. If some of these uncertainties clear up the volume will pick up, but there appears to be a lot of uncertainties today and unfortunately investors really don't like uncertainty."

The resignation of reform-oriented Internal Revenue Commissioner Rene Bañez earlier yesterday was just "one of the reasons people are on the sidelines," he added.

Volume fell to 47.035 million shares worth P139.17 million from 446.37 million shares worth P483.95 million on Friday. **AFP**

ang tan golf Club & Shares, Inc.
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SELLING
Alabang A/B 1.55M/1.6M
Camp John Hay Golf 260,000
Capitol Hills 110,000
Forest Hills 'A'/B/C 200/270/230
Manila Golf (Cor.) 11,850,000
Manila Southwoods 'A'/B 500/600
Makati Sports 'A'/B 250/260
Mt Malarayat 'A'/C 300,000/500,000
Sta. Elena A/B 1.8M
Wack Wack 6,775,000
BUYING:
Baguio Country Club 720,000
Manila Polo 2,750,000
Mt. Malarayat 'A'/C 330/450,000
Sta. Elena A/B Please call
Tagaytay Highland Golf 830,000
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COUNTRY SHARES
As of August 20, 2002

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A	-	1,650,000
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	700,000	725,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*		95,000/105,000*
CAMP JOHN HAY	-	265,000
CAPITOL HILLS	107,500	110,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	165,000	180,000
CLUB FILIPINO	-	200,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	-	350,000/450,000*/600,000**
EVERCREST A/B*	135,000*	100,000
FONTANA D/C*/B**	-	80,000/150,000*/250,000**
FOREST HILLS A/C*	210,000/250,000**	230,000/250,000**
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	260,000/280,000*	370,000
MANILA POLO CLUB	2,750,000	2,900,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	600,000/700,000*
METROPOLITAN A/B*	100,000	115,000/125,000*
MIMOSA IND./C***	95,000/275,000**	100,000/300,000**
MT. MALARAYAT A/C*	-	350,000/625,000*
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	Please call	Please call
PUERTO AZUL	-	115,000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	-	220,000
RIVIERA A/C**	170,000/300,000**	195,000/400,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	350,000	380,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*/C**	-	90,000/150,000*/180,000**
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**		95,000/450,000*/550,000**
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB A/B*		1.8M
SUBIC BAY IND./CORP.*	-	200,000/300,000*
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CO/GOLF*	800,000*	400,000/850,000*
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	-	780,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	150,000	170,000
VALLEY GOLF	250,000	-
WACKWACK	6,775,000	-

Available Lessors for Playing Rights: Calatagan, Camp John Hay (Free), Canlubang, Canyon Woods, The Country Club (Free) Celebrity, Eagleridge Eastridge, Forest Hills, Makati Sports, Malarayat, Orchard, Riviera, Sta Elena, Southwoods (Free), Tagaytay H-lands & Midlands, Valley Golf, Wack Wack, Rockwell & Others & NEED LESSOR - Manila Golf Individual & Alabang
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GOLFERS CLUB SHARES, INC.
SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF AUG. 19, 2002

	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,600,000	1,500,000
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,700,000	1,650,000
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	700,000	680,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	80,000	
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	280,000	250,000
6. CANLUBANG GOLF COUNTRY CLUB	600,000	550,000
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	120,000	110,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	190,000	170,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	400,000	380,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	190,000	
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	200,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	330,000	
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17. LUISITA GOLF CLUB	400,000	
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"		250,000
19. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	280,000	260,000
20. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)		10,500,000
21. MANILA POLO CLUB (CORP.)	13,000,000	
22. MANILA POLO CLUB	2,800,000	2,700,000
23. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	650,000	630,000
24. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	730,000	700,000
25. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"		100,000
26. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
27. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	350,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A" "B" "C"	Pls. call	Please call
29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	220,000	200,000
30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	200,000	
31. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	210,000	
32. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	350,000	320,000
33. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,800,000	1,600,000
34. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND.)	250,000	
35. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L GOLF CLUB	850,000	800,000
36. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	800,000	750,000
37. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	170,000	160,000
38. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		260,000
39. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	6,600,000	

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POWER PROJECT

Tipco, Taiwan firm to sign $90-M deal

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DIVERSIFIED Formosa Plastics group of Taiwan and Trust International Paper Corp. (Tipco) are set to sign today in Taiwan a $90-million co-generation power facility in Mabalacat, Pampanga.

Formosa Plastics will build a co-generation facility project to supply cheap electricity to Tipco, one of the Philippines' biggest paper manufacturers and its sole paper exporter.

The deal will be signed by Formosa Plastics Executive vice president K.H. Wu and Tipco chair and CEO Elon Ting in the presence of Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II who is leading a Philippine delegation to Taiwan for the 10th Taipei-Manila Joint Economic Conference (JEC).

Upon signing of the agreement, Formosa Plastics and Tipco have agreed to discuss and negotiate the appropriate structure and terms of the joint venture.

Cheap electricity from Formosa is expected to make Tipco more competitive in the export market, considering that electricity bills eat up a quarter of a paper mill's production costs.

The Philippines has the highest cost of power in Asia, second only to Japan. Tipco exports roughly $60 million annually or 70 percent of its production to Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, Singapore, Japan, India, Thailand and Nigeria.

The Formosa-Tipco deal accounts for the lion's share of the $100 million in investments expected to be made in the annual JEC.

The DTI will sign a memorandum of agreement with three major information and communication technology firms in Taiwan—Trend Micro Systems (Taiwan's biggest software designer and export), Datatec, and Ulead Systems.

Trend Microsystems is planning to expand its software development center in the Philippines (its biggest offshore unit) which makes English versions of its software programs for the Asia-Pacific market. It plans to increase its workforce of Filipino software engineers from 300 to 400 next year.

Datatec will also put up its first overseas software development center in the Philippines that would focus on translating its existing software to English version for the Asia-Pacific market. U-Lead will also put up a facility here specializing in research and development of multimedia software for the world market.

Breaktime . . .

From page B3

not contain such an information, although it was a major part of the audit, supposedly.

It's possible Meritec forgot about it. We should ban it from ever doing business here again. We spent P1.3 million of our tax money on an absent-minded company.

* * *

AND of course the survey says that, today, Gloriaetta is the most popular she has ever been since she has become a *lavandera*. Is that good or bad?

Of course to her critics that is bad. They say she got the good rating only because of media stunts. You know—things like low inflation rate and high growth rates.

* * *

GLORIAETTA can surely use strong public support to make the BIR collect the right amount of tax from bold stars, based on the sizes of their . . . whatever.

In the business sector, the bigshots always love it when the leader is popular. It makes for political stability, meaning, less trouble in the streets.

Then those in business can go on doing the thing which they do best. And that is, creating billions upon billions of wealth. In the process, we can also find some jobs.

For at the end of the day, it's all about the economy. Gloriaetta still has so much to do. The survey says housing should now be her top priority.

It is human nature. Everybody wants to have his own place under the sun. Some people even settle for a space under the Edsa flyovers.

Somehow we must help them, and I think the solution lies in socialized housing. It is a program needing tons of money and, thus, a leader who is well liked.

In this country, you see, a government must enjoy unwavering public support to collect even just a kilo of tax revenue money.

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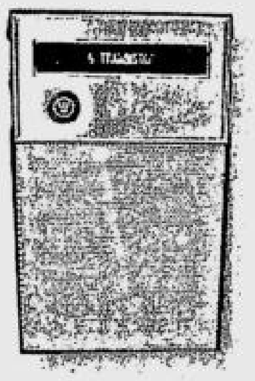

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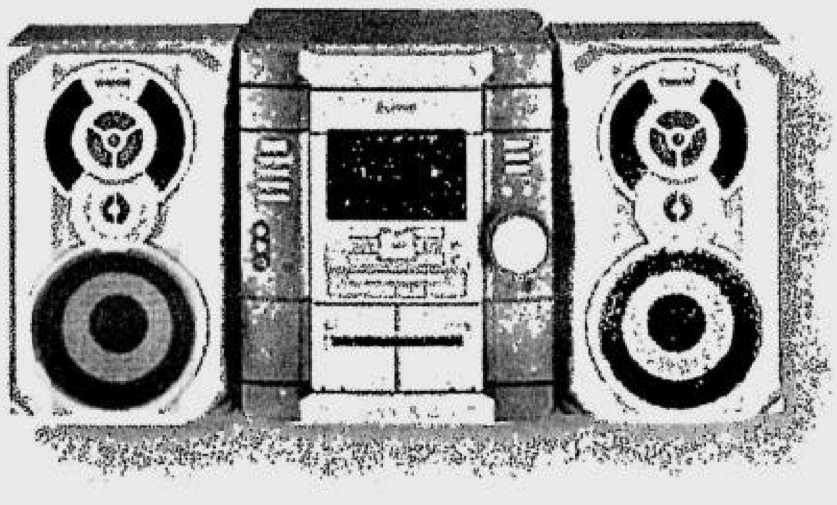

txtjock.com

Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Top 1000 taxpayers laud BIR e-payment initiative

THE GOVERNMENT crosses the digital divide in its continuing effort to improve its revenue collection efficiency. Initially, the Bureau of Internal Revenue has enlisted the top 1000 taxpayers to enjoy the convenience of filing and paying 14 out of the 43 tax returns on the Internet.

Of course, the top 1000 taxpayers deserve the VIP treatment from the government. They are the cream of the crop of the taxpaying public. They are dutifully helping the government raise much needed funds to finance the country's poverty alleviation projects, anti-crime drive and a host of major development initiatives. It is for this reason that they should be considered the elite members of the society.

The BIR has made its Electronic Filing and Payment System (EFPS) available to top 1000 taxpayers since April. The deadline to adopt EFPS was moved from July 1 to Aug. 1 to accommodate requests of firms to attune their systems to the new tax filing and payment scheme.

"It's a significant step toward the development of e-commerce in the country," says Eloisa Celiz, accounting manager of Singapore Airlines. "The Internet gives us convenience."

Singapore Airlines is among the early converts to the new system.

"At first, we had encountered some technical problems," Celiz adds. "But I am very pleased of PNB's response time to help us coordinate with the BIR."

PNB is one of the accredited banks of the BIR handling the EFPS. As such, it has worked with the BIR very closely to proselytize the rest of the top 1000 taxpayers to cross the digital divide. Earlier, the BIR and PNB conducted a series of meetings with the taxpayers to introduce the facility.

Two other PNB clients, Lorna Nalica and Mitzi Ajero, vice president for finance of Television and Production Exponents (Tape) Inc. and finance director of International School (IS), respectively, share the same amusing--and somewhat frightening--first time experience with the EFPS.

Tape Inc. is the popular production outfit and producer of top-rated noontime show "Eat Bulaga". On the other hand, IS is the exclusive school for expatriates and well-to-do locals.

"We encountered validation problems, too," Nalica relates. "But manager Raul Recino (of PNB Katipunan branch) was always there to assist us."

Among the three PNB clients, Tape was the earliest convert. It started e-filing since April 15.

"We are still trying to learn EFPS," says Ajero of IS. "We did our first EFPS transaction on the Internet June 14," she says. "We felt nervous because we were afraid of the late payment charges," she adds.

AVP Hernando Valmores Jr. of PNB's main branch assures Ajero that PNB will be there to help resolve whatever problem arising from transacting under the EFPS.

To date, PNB has almost 25 percent of the top 1000 taxpayers under its watch.

For the first semester of the year, Valmores reports that with the EFPS, PNB increased its contribution to the government coffers by P4.3 billion compared to the same period last year.

Also present during the PNB e-Payment experience sharing were Reynaldo R. Yatco, accountant and Veronica Obcena, payroll officer, both of IS; and Zeny Buenavista, finance manager of Tape.

GMC SUPPLIES SOYA OIL TO NPI

General Milling Corp., through its sales and marketing subsidiary General Agri-Foods International Inc. (Gafil), will soon be supplying soya oil to Newspaper Paraphernalia Inc. (NPI), whose new ink manufacturing plant located at Mamplasan, Binan, Laguna will be in commercial operation soon. In a memorandum of agreement signed recently, soybean crusher GMC has entered into a 5-year agreement to supply NPI's soya oil requirements used in its manufacture of soya oil-based web-offset inks. GMC is the leading soya oil producer in the country, while NPI is the exclusive supplier of the soy ink used by The Philippine Daily Inquirer. Newspaper Paraphernalia Inc. was founded in 1997 to supply printers across the country with the best printing supplies such as newsprint, printing plates and films, rubber blankets, and the like – including soy ink. The Philippine Daily Inquirer became the first newspaper here to try soy ink, which was originally sourced from American ink manufacturers, and by 1998 was printing with 100-percent soy ink supplied by NPI. Shown signing the MOA (from left) Newspaper Paraphernalia Inc. (NPI) president Luis R. Ymson Jr., NPI chair Patricio A. Garcia, Gafil president and general manager Benedicto C. Salalila and GMC director for Luzon operations and business development manager Romeo P. Sangalang. Witnessing the signing are (from left) Eduardo M. Paraiso, NPI marketing manager, Renato O. Batalla, NPI vice president for sales and marketing, Raymundo E. Soberano, NPI vice president for manufacturing, and Francisca S. Go, Gafil market development specialist.

ePLDT PARTNERS WITH IBM

ePLDT, the information and communications technology (ICT) company of telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT) recently announced its partnership with IBM, the world's leading creator, developer and manufacturer of information technology solutions. The partnership enables ePLDT to add value to its Vitro Data Center offerings, in particular quality assurance and support of IBM machines. Shown are (from left) Helen Marquez, ePLDT sales and marketing director; Ariel Roda, ePLDT managing director, Jack Hamill, IBM finance, and Manny Portugal, IBM Philippines country manager for telecommunication, media and utilities industry.

BBFI DONATES BOOKS TO 11 PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Bato Balani Foundation Inc. (BBFI), in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd) Region III led by regional director Dr. Vilma Labrador, Ceso III, recently awarded brand new textbooks and library materials to 11 public elementary and secondary schools in the region to aid students in their education. The said turnover was held in Guiguinto Central School in line with the Division of Bulacan's monthly executive committee meeting. Shown with representatives of the recipient schools are (from left) BBFI manager Margie Quirim and Belgosa manager Jerome Feliciano along with Bulacan Mayor Ambrosio Cruz Jr. (sixth from left) and Dr. Vilma Labrador, Ceso III (seventh from left) during the formal turnover. The book donation program was part of BBFI's P15-million commitment to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's educational support program under the Foundation's 'Tulong sa Paaralan, Tulay sa Kaunlaran' (TPSK-TSK)' book donation program. Belgosa Media Systems Inc. and Diwa Learning Systems Inc. sponsored the book donation package. BBFI is a private corporate foundation engaged in the management of education development programs that aim to help uplift the capability of people in education. It serves as the social development and project management arm of First Asia Venture Capital Inc.

CHINATRUST OPENS NEW OFFICE

As part of its aggressive expansion program, Chinatrust recently inaugurated its new extension office at the 12th floor of the Lepanto Building along Paseo de Roxas at the heart of the Makati central business district. The new office will house the marketing, financial controllership, credit, branch banking, human resources, general services, sales and distribution, and small business loans division. Along with senior officers and employees of Chinatrust, present during the ceremonial ribbon cutting were Fr. Paul Marquez (SSP) who officiated the blessing, Chinatrust vice chair Thomas Chen (second from left), president Joey Bermudez (third from left), and vice chair William go (right). The new extension office is a stone's throw away from Chinatrust's head office in Tower One along Ayala Avenue.

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For inquiries, call the BDO Call Center at 638-0808 or visit www.bancodeoro.com.ph

Musical treats at the Venue

THE VENUE, the Philippines' largest and hottest party destination, and Smart present "The Venue Kadayawan Special", a succession of musical treats beginning Aug. 24. "Bounce! Provincial Raid Party Tour", a non-stop extreme hip-hop and R&B dance party, will take centerstage. The show will feature DMC All-Star Champion DJs like DJ Mod, DJ Coki, DJ Sir Scratch and DJ Kimozave. Other performers include MC Rappers, Gorgeous and Sexy ledge Dancers and Breakbeat Dancers. Studio 23's "Urban Myx" will cover the party.

On Aug. 30 and 31, Manila's top stand-up comedians and impersonators Kim, Teri, Wally and Pooh will delight Davaoenos in the show "Quatro Qantos".

MotoRevolution.

MOTOREVOLUTION MEETS MEN IN BLACK II

The Motorevolution of Motorola's personal communications sector recently came face to face with the 'Men in Black' to revolutionize and protect earth from alien invasion, during the advance screening of 'Men in Black II' at the SM Megamall in Ortigas Center. At the movie premier Moterevolution took the center stage when three Motorola Cellular phones were raffled off to lucky moviegoers. Motorevolution is technology innovation with Motorola's fashionable and uniquely sculptured 'swinging blade' V70, the sleek and smallest tri-band phone for busy people V66, and the hip and stylish T190, which can accommodate 765 characters in a single SMS message. Ellen T. Suarez, Motorola's marketing manager for consumer solutions group-South Asia (second from left) is shown with Solid Link executives headed by the husband-and-wife team of Lito and Grace Mendoza, organizers of the movie premier 'Men in Black II'.

SPECIAL PARTY FOR MOM AND BABY

Promoting the role of toys in child development, Fisher Price successfully conducted the 'Smart Play Workshop' July 27 at Country Waffles, Greenhills. The venue became the haven for special family bonding as almost a hundred mom and dad participants and their babies eagerly joined each activity. From the open discussion during the workshop with speakers sponsored by MomsWorld to various contests, moms and dads actively joined. The awarding of winners of Fisher Price 'Pampering Mom & Baby' raffle promo also took place, sponsored by Miladay Jewels, Kiddi Pharmaton, Slimmers World and David's Salon. The event was the culmination of the Fisher Price raffle promo. The promo was also responsible for establishing Fisher Price as the ideal toy for baby's full growth potential. Fisher Price is exclusively distributed by Richwell Trading Corp. located at 25 Quezon Ave., Quezon City. Shown is one of the winning mom and baby tandems

Product FILES

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History shows market's recovery to be bumpy

NEW YORK—Thirty years in the stock market have taught Bud Hesler the value of patience. He's watched his investments soar during bull markets, and sink when the bears stopped hibernating.

"History always repeats itself, so I know it's going to get better. The question is how it gets better," said Hesler, a 55-year-old chemist in Bristol, Pennsylvania. "I always try to stay calm about it. I've got my health, and that's the most important thing."

Taking a broad perspective is probably the best route for investors because the market's volatility—as last week's trading illustrated—is bound to continue. The Dow Jones industrials, down more than 206 points one day, soared 260 the next.

Wall Street's recovery is likely to be long and bumpy, with stocks taking years to return to their bull market levels.

"This is not going to be a sharp V-shaped recovery off the bottom like we saw following Sept. 11, when we had roughly five trading days of sharp selling, the weekend came, and the market took off like a rabbit," said Will Braman, chief investment officer at John Hancock Funds. "This is going to take a lot more time."

Few predict a return anytime soon to the market's all-time highs of early 2000. Back then, the Nasdaq composite index traded above 5,000, the Dow was in the 11,700 range and the Standard & Poor's 500 index hovered near 1,500.

The more likely scenario, many analysts say, is a market that inches forward and then gives up at least some of that ground. Progress will be slow and gradual—what some analysts call a sideways market. Although stocks may be able to put together rallies, ultimately the momentum will fizzle and the market will backtrack.

One reason for the caution is history. Although every era is different, the recoveries from the two bear markets most frequently compared with Wall Street's most recent malaise suggest a turnaround will come in spurts.

From mid-January 1973 to late 1974, the S&P dropped 48 percent while the Dow declined 45.1 percent. By late 1974 the worst was over, and stocks began moving higher, but slowly. It would be the early 1980s before the S&P and Dow closed above their pre-bear market levels.

The 1987 crash was more dramatic—climaxing with a one-day drop of 508 points, or nearly 23 percent, in the Dow on Oct. 19—but stabilized within a few months. The Standard and Poor's 500 index, meanwhile, fell 34 percent. By the end of the year, the bear market was over, but it was 1989 before the S&P and Dow regained their former levels. ***AP***

Bush advisers back investor tax breaks to boost market

CRAWFORD, Texas—White House officials on Sunday advocated a new round of tax breaks for wary investors in order to give the stock market a boost and speed the pace of US growth in the run-up to the November congressional elections.

"We, around the world, have seen a flight away from equities. That is, an increase in people's aversion to risk. It is really important to restore confidence in long-term investing," the chair of the White House's Council of Economic Advisers, Glenn Hubbard, told CBS' "Face the Nation."

Bush said on Friday that he might propose a new economic-stimulus package that would reduce taxes on capital gains and dividends, allow investors to put more money tax-free into retirement accounts, and increase the amount of investment losses people can reduce from their taxable income each year.

Though Hubbard said no final decisions have been made, he said such "strong pro-growth policies" could help bolster the sluggish economy and entice investors back to a stock market hard hit by accounting scandals.

"We simply aren't growing as fast as we should. And we need the kind of policies that promote growth," Hubbard said, though he played down the risk of a double-dip recession as "really, really remote."

White House communications director Dan Bartlett told ABC's "This Week" that Bush was "not content with this economic recovery right now" and was looking at all options.

"We're not going to sit back and hope for the best, we're going to continue to look at policies that will help create jobs in America," Bartlett said.

Bush is eager to avoid a mistake made by his father in 1992, when a perception took hold among voters that the elder President Bush was out of touch on the ailing economy. That helped Bill Clinton turn him out of the White House.

On Saturday, top White House economic adviser Lawrence Lindsey called for an overhaul of the tax code to encourage more saving and investment.

Democrats accused the Republican administration of doing too little to boost employment and help average Americans since the US economy slid into a recession in March 2001.

"The president's still talking about tax cuts for the top 2 percent and saying that's going to stimulate the economy. That is not going to do it," said Sen. Jon Corzine, a Democrat from New Jersey. ***Reuters***

Newly confident GM readies assault on the passenger market

SANTA BARBARA, Calif.—"Once upon a time, we set the style," the video says, as black-and-white images of tail-finned Cadillacs and chrome-laden Chevrolets from GM's glory days of the 1950s and 1960s flash by.

"The past is a lonely place to live."

Summing up the renewed confidence at the world's largest automaker, the video, currently being shown to dealers across the country, concludes with "the style is back, the quality is back, the magic is back," as the pictures transition to color and GM's new lineup that it believes will win the hearts of car and truck buyers.

After decades of dowdy styling and falling market share, GM has more reasons to celebrate now than in years. US sales are up 1.8 percent this year in a weaker market, profits are higher and the quality is better.

"We have a mantra now, celebrating on the run," Gary Cowger, head of GM's North American operations, told reporters at a GM conference held here last week, where the automaker previewed its new car lineup due out over the next two years.

"We've got to celebrate on the run. It's like a high five in the NBA while you're running down the court," he said.

Bolstered by its growing truck sales, GM is now readying an assault on the car side of the market, where Korean automakers have gained share at the low-end while the Japanese and Europeans made in-roads in the mid-size and luxury segments.

"There's still a market of 8 million passenger cars (in the United States annually), and if we're really going to gain share, we need to focus on passenger cars," said GM vice chair Bob Lutz, the retired former Chrysler executive who GM recruited a year ago to restructure its vehicle development and design system. "It's really a broad-based attack." ***Reuters***

Global computer server sales weaken in second quarter–IDC

SINGAPORE—Demand for computer servers remained sluggish in the second quarter to June, reflecting widespread worries over the global economy, an industry report said Monday.

"The markets continue to be in a cautious mode, with most organizations ensuring that the global economy is on its way to recovery before they launch any major investments," said regional computing systems director Avneesh Saxena.

"Amid this challenging environment, server vendors can continue to expect increasing pressure on server prices and demand for higher value in terms of additional services," he said.

According to International Data Center, sales of servers in the April-June period reached $1.35 billion, down 9 percent from $1.49 billion over the same semester last year.

The number of units sold also declined with only 133,577 servers sold in the June quarter, down 2.5 percent from 137,101 for the same period last year. ***AFP***

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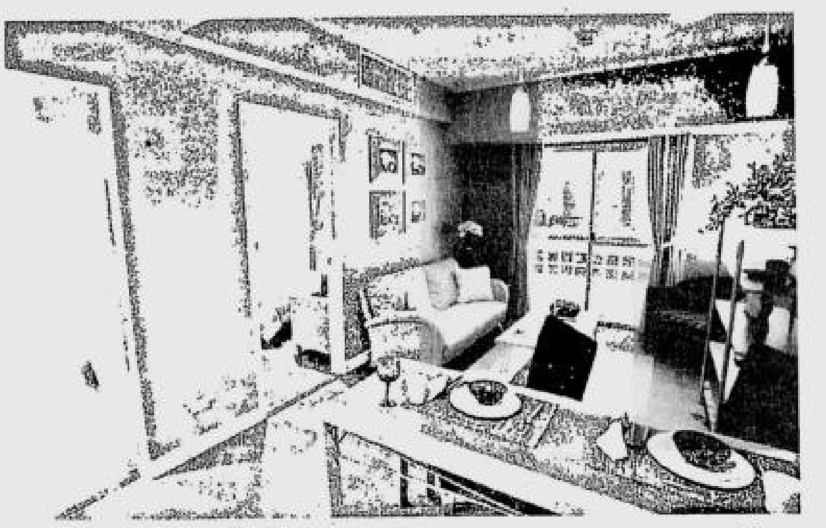
Home at emerging gateway to south

By Tessa R. Salazar

A SPACIOUS living room which flows into the dining area, shows creative angling of partitions. Bedroom area is tucked away behind the living room area for maximum privacy.

THE MASTER'S bedroom of a two-bedroom model of Vivant Flats has the feel of a luxury suite of a five-star hotel



A SINGLE bedroom unit at Vivant Flats has everything one needs. Note washing area to left of dining area. Living room and bedroom have views of the metropolis

THE SINGLE bedroom also has a working area in the corner with natural lighting and a view of the city

ALABANG is not only replicating the skyline of Makati and Ortigas. It's even attempting to "outdo" these areas in appearance.

IT companies, Filinvest Corporate City, buildings of Insular Life, the Asian Hospital, the Alabang Town Center and the 200,000-square-meter Festival Supermall nestled in the Northgate area look like crown jewels at night.

Bars, hangouts, automotive shops and car dealerships have mushroomed in the area (note the impressive design of the newest Starbucks establishment near the Ayala Alabang Village). At the newly opened Westgate of the Corporate City are the Fitness First gym and S&R PriceSmart. Westgate has an entertainment and retail center that includes top market establishments like Country Waffles, Brother Burgers, and Twist by Minggoy.

Good rental revenue

Amid sprouting establishments, Alabang's business units still earn good rental revenue since the place has not been "overbuilt," according to Filinvest's Joji Yap. And unlike other urban centers, Yap further states, Alabang comes with superior lifestyle options—fresh, open spaces and golf courses near recreation centers, a world-class hospital, the shopping center mecca of southern Metro Manila and the sports and country club.

Neighboring Laguna seems the perfect complement to Alabang, with hip Alabang just beside the techno-savvy industrial centers, exclusive schools and posh subdivisions of Laguna..

Newest domain

Alabang town, as it is observed, can be called the newest domain of single career women, eligible bachelors and "early nesters"—the same people who occupy enviable positions in companies that make their addresses Alabang. The "southern yuppie" population is expected to grow as more companies relocate to the south. This doesn't even take into account Alabang's other "denizens": health workers at the Asian Hospital, "empty nesters" who've settled down and have decided to spend the rest of their fulfilled days here, and a sprinkling of expatriates who choose to live in Alabang because of their proximity to their companies in the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) corridor.

Vivant Flats

Taking such a varied cross-section of society into account, Filinvest has conceptualized the Vivant Flats.

Each unit of Vivant Flats will have wide window spaces. The building will have three unit sizes: studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units averaging 35 sq. m, 45 sq. m and 66-90 sq. m. There will also be prime garden units at the ground floor with a garden view and patio for elderly couples. There will be the main pool and the kid's swimming pool, a cabana, a jogging path, a children's play area, a big ground floor lobby/function room for parties, a coffee shop and a convenience store.

Vivant Flat will stand right across Southpoint Driving Range, where golf practice—or even a meal at Dencio's can be had. A walk up the block will bring the Vivant Flat resident to the Palms Club where a wide range of sports facilities for wall climbing, gym, spa, swimming, squash, badminton, tennis, basketball, bowling and billiards are available.

There are even five restaurants and bars here, and facilities for ballroom dancing.

The Vivant property is beside Filinvest Corporate City's linear "green belt" walkway that links the entire corporate city's establishments to each other. The "green belt" runs beside a riverwalk that moves from the southwest corner to the northeast corner of the city. A pedestrian walkway allows leisurely strolls amid green space, devoid of vehicles.

The building was designed by Wimberly Allison Tong and Goo of Newport Beach, California. They are the same people who designed the Grand Floridian in Disneyworld, Grand Hyatt Bali, Lost City of Bothswana in South Africa and residential and resort estates in Hawaii.

Assisting them is the architectural firm of GF Associates, which have blueprinted the Ayala Tower 1 and PBCom Tower. The interior decorator is Arlen de Guzman, who worked with Hirsh Bedner in Hong Kong and is responsible for projects like the Pan Pacific Hotel in Manila, Marriot Cebu and the Palms country club.

Building visitors have to pass through a 24-hour security station at the lobby area. Two-way audio intercom between the lobby and the units will allow residents to clear visitors before they enter. The parking will require card access. Fire safety standards include a fire alarm and sprinkler system.

The shared development concept allows the potential buyer to invest in the unit at its cost. The funds are clearly earmarked for this project alone, said Yap. The funds are placed in a trust account with the buyer's own name. He or she earns the interest from the money. When the project starts, the trustee bank will release the funds as the project manager presents billings from the contractor.

The project manager is Filinvest Alabang Inc., the developer of Filinvest Corporate City. The Filinvest Group has been in business for over 50 years and has equity of close to P30 billion and assets of over P60 billion.

The model units are at the third floor of the Festival Supermall near Subway and the Festival Bingo area. The project is still at the investment stage. Construction will commence next year when the investor pool is complete.

Gov't, private sector alliance urged

THE CHAMBER of Real Estate and Builders Association (Creba) yesterday called on the private sector to go all-out in helping government development programs designed to uplift the living conditions of the people in the face of the enormity of the country's problems.

In a statement, Creba national president Florentino S. Dulalia Jr. said:

"In these trying times, we need less of destructive criticisms and narrow partisanship, but more of cooperation and unity to achieve common national objectives. The private sector should set the example by helping government programs for our people. Unless we begin to learn how to work with each other, it will be almost next to impossible to improve the life of our people."

The real estate business and professional sector under Creba's umbrella, Dulalia said, took note of President Macapagal-Arroyo's recent report on housing with the serious intent of strengthening the pursuit of "our mandate to improve housing development."

The 2002 Creba-HUDCC national convention in Baguio City on Oct. 9, 10 and 11, Dulalia said, offers an excellent opportunity to forge an alliance between the government and the private sector to resolve the housing problems. Creba has joined hands again with the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, the highest government policymaking body for housing, to achieve their overall goals of providing decent housing, basic services, and jobs to the homeless and underprivileged people.

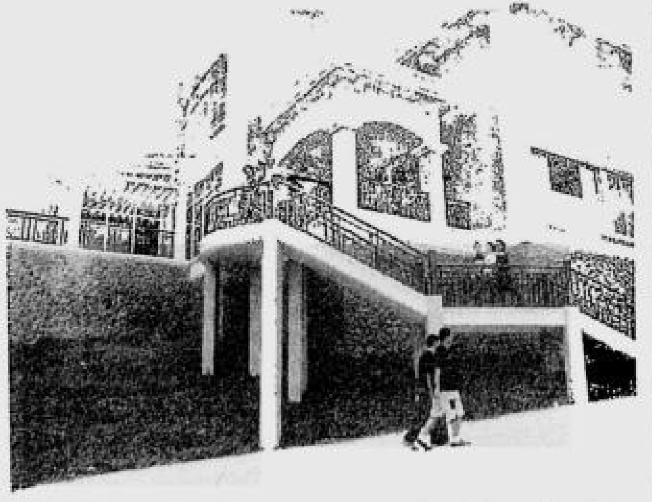
Said the Creba president: "We are going through what might be called the Great Era of Divisiveness. President Arroyo laments that her detractors have been using every conceivable tactics in trying to put to naught, at least in the public mind, her best efforts to improve the government's programs for poverty alleviation, peace and order, security, economic recovery, infrastructure and good governance. The administration is only on its second year.

"The government's achievements, it is said, leave much to be desired. However, in the face of the enormity of the problems besetting the country not only these days, but for decades, what the government has so far done deserves a pat on the back."

The convention will serve as a forum of all housing and real estate stakeholders for an exchange of information, ideas, skills, techniques and methods of implementing housing and urban development programs.

In the recent memorandum of agreement between Creba and the HUDCC, Creba will facilitate and encourage the participation in the convention not only of the stalwarts of the industry and its allied sectors, but also officials of local government units, including provincial, city and municipal officials concerned with planning and housing. Creba has been undertaking industry-wide consultation conferences and preconvention workshops, mobilizing its provincial and regional chapters nationwide to determine the state of housing and urban development in their respective areas.

Even beyond the national convention, Creba aims to continue hosting seminars, workshops and lectures on capability building for socialized, low-cost and medium housing as well as on pertinent laws, rules and regulations concerning private sector participation in the national shelter program. The Creba-HUDCC memorandum of agreement was signed by Secretary Michael T. Defensor, HUDCC chair, and the Creba national president.



GEROGETOWN'S clubhouse, located at the highest point of the vacation estate, is a haven for recreation.

GEORGETOWN CLUBHOUSE

Haven for fun, relaxation

RESIDENTS of Georgetown Lakeview Vacation Estate in Metro Tagaytay may now fully enjoy the various amenities offered in its posh 800-square-meter clubhouse.

First Georgetown Ventures Inc. president Richmond Yang recently announced that construction of the clubhouse, which is located at the highest point of the estate, has just been completed and the facility is now operational.

Designed for the exclusive use of Georgetown residents, the place offers the perfect venue for rest and recreation. Its coffee shop offers a spot for one to unwind and talk with friends while savoring the cool breeze of Tagaytay and enjoying the breathtaking view of Taal Lake and Volcano.

Active sports activities may also be pursued with the use of the heated indoor swimming pool as well as the basketball and tennis courts. There's also a game room where one can engage in billiards and table tennis. Health and fitness buffs who want to tone those muscles and burn those calories may eventually use the fitness center, which is located inside the clubhouse.

Georgetown Lakeview Vacation Estate is a haven for relaxation away from the hustle and bustle of city life. It offers 10 Amercian country house-inspired units to choose from, with each home offering a clear, unobstructed view of the magnificent Taal vista.

House and lot packages are available at reasonable prices. For more information, e-mail FGVI@sfi.com.ph.

Firm puts premium on excellence

TRADE and Industry Undersecretary Adrian S. Cristobal Jr. recently cited James Hardie Philippines as one company that is consistently committed to "providing consumers with safe products of high quality at affordable prices."

The undersecretary, who clarified that he was not endorsing products, declared that "just by yourselves, you are causing a significant impact on the lives of our people."

"Only a company that puts premium on excellence, recognizes its role in society, and respects the consumer can produce these products."

Launch

Cristobal gave the remarks at the launch of HardiPlank external wall cladding by the Australian manufacturer. HardiPlank Select Cedar Mill is ideal for steel or timber frame that comes with a 15-year consumer warranty.

Compared to hollow block, which is bulky, HardiPlank is strong, safe and esthetically pleasing and much quicker to build, said company executives.

According to John Balass, president of James Hardie Philippines, HardiPlank is the company's No. 1 product in the United States. "It is the plank siding of consumer's choice in many parts of the USA, beating timber siding and other external wall cladding materials."

Cristobal said the launch of HardiPlank and similar innovative products supports the government's objective in promoting revolutionary and inexpensive consumer products.

Commendation

"James Hardie is a company that brought into our shores technology and capital to produce quality products," Cristobal said. More than that, however, the company is to be commended for "the wisdom to see that the work ethic, talent and skills of the Filipino worker is worth investing in."

HardiPlank, like all other Hardie products, is the result of extensive research and development. With its introduction in the local market, James Hardie now provides wider choices for both internal and external finishing materials that bear the trademark safety and quality standards of all James Hardie products. James Hardie also manufactures HardiFlex and HardiLite internal finishing materials.

HardiPlank, like these other products, will not rot, burn or be affected by termites. It is also water- and fire-resistant, allows quicker installation and takes up less space, thus providing bigger usable area for homeowners.

THE ENTERPRISE CENTER

Asean's most energy-efficient building

By Charles E. Buban

WHENEVER you see the twin office towers of The Enterprise Center at the corner of Ayala avenue and Paseo de Roxas in Makati City, don't just marvel at the building's design and architecture. During the recent Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Energy Efficient Building Awards, the building was awarded a plaque of recognition as one of the Asean region's top five buildings in the best practices competition for new and existing building category.

The competition has attracted 21 entries from eight countries with Singapore's Changi General Hospital topping the category. Final judging was held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam last May.

In recognition for its successful entry in the category and for being the country's most energy-efficient building, the Department of Energy will confer the Don Emilio Abello Energy Efficient Special Award to The Enterprise Center this December in time for the National Energy Week celebration.

The Enterprise Center is managed by leading real estate services and investment management firm Jones Lang LaSalle, and is owned and developed by KSA Realty Corp., a consortium of Kuok Philippine Properties, San Miguel Properties, A. Soriano Corp. and Rodamco Philippines BV.

Promote energy efficiency

The Asean Energy Efficient Building Awards was established to promote the development of energy-efficient buildings among the Asean member-nations as well as share information on design and architecture that promotes energy efficiency.

THE ENTERPRISE Center

The competition is organized annually among the 10 member-countries of the Asean.

The objectives of the awards are to promote regional cooperation in various fields of energy such as energy efficiency and conservation and to serve as a platform to generate opportunities and interests of the private sector to be involved in energy development of the Asean region in partnership with the public sector.

Jointly administered

The competition is jointly administered by the Asean Energy Efficiency and Conservation Sub-Sector Network, the program's initiator, and the Asean Centre for Energy which implements and coordinates the nomination and judging processes.

The awardees were chosen first through the Asean Energy Efficiency and Conservation Best Practices Competition. The winning entries, which were already determined energy-efficient based on agreed standards, were endorsed and nominated by respective EE&C Focal Points of each Asean member-country. The entries were then evaluated by a board of judges formed jointly by the ACE and the EE&C-SSN, composed mainly of architects and electrical engineers highly regarded in their countries.

For new and existing building category, entries were judged according to the following:

- Overall on-site natural environment considerations (how the building employed vegetation, modified landscape and topography, effectively used on-site natural environment, etc.).
- Passive design concepts (orientation and building design and daylighting employed).
- Active design concepts (air-conditioning and lighting systems and quality of indoor air).
- Management and maintenance scheme (building's energy management systems and maintenance and management measures being implemented).
- Replicability of energy efficient concept and sustainability.
- Environmental impact consideration (waste and pollution management, etc.).

Nusa Dua to introduce soil-free planting

FILINVEST Land Inc. will introduce "The Green Thumb Guide" featuring the hydroponic system (or soil-less planting) in its modern residential farm estate project in Tanza, Cavite.

Nusa Dua, a 200-hectare development aimed at the new breed of hobby farmers, has invited hydroponic expert Pete Bersamin to share his expertise in lucrative farming via hydroponics. Nusa Dua and Bersamin pioneered this system in Metro Manila.

This system is ideal for hobbyists who have limited planting space. Since the growing medium does not use soil, the plants are harvested clean. They are usually not infested with destructive microorganisms and so do not have to be subjected to harmful insecticides.

Hydroponic system

With a hydroponic system, one can grow leafy greens such as lettuce, pechay, mustard, spinach, tomatoes, eggplant and pepper.

Bersamin has even successfully raised cucumber and watermelons on his rooftop. What is important is that the plants are given a balanced fertilizer formulation.

Modern weekend farmers will be able to grow and harvest vegetables for home consumption. But there is also great earning potential in commercial quantities.

Weather conditions do not affect hydroponics planting since the growing area is under a protective roof.

Expert advice

Buyers who set up at Nusa Dua can have expert advice on how to maximize farm yield through hydroponics. Seminars or one-on-one consultations will be provided for by Nusa Dua's team of farming consultants.

The road to a calming lifestyle has now been paved by Nusa Dua. Weekend farmers can choose from 750 sq. m to 2,000 sq. m as a modern residential farm. This incorporates a sizeable farm where vegetables, flowers, fruit trees or ornamental plants can be propagated. Within the farmlot, a Balinese themed rest house will provide farm owners a place to rest.

With Cavite's climate that is conducive to growing and abundant water supply, Nusa Dua is the ideal choice in pursuing a family dream come true.

Bersamin will be demonstrating and explaining the concept and logistics of hydroponics farming at a one-day invitational event titled "The Green Thumb Guides, The Art and Science of Hydroponics," to be held on Aug. 25 at the Filinvest marketing office, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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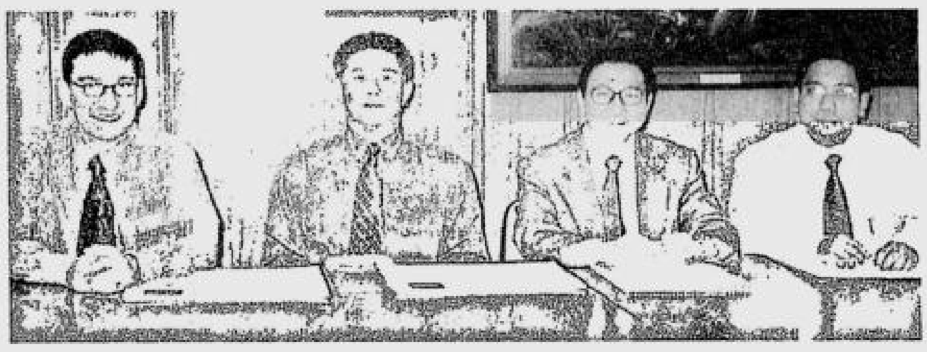
MEDICAL CENTER PLAN
Officials of leading German health care conglomerate Hospitalia ActivHealth and Philip H. Recto Architects discuss the plan for the proposed Manila Doctors Medical Center, which will be built on a prime 2-hectare property on the newly opened President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard at the Manila Bay reclaimed area, Pasay City. From left are Carol Wallerich, Hospitalia ActivHealth (HA) facility planning head; Peter Ng, HA managing director; architects Philip H. Recto and Arnel Cenidoza of Philip H. Recto Architects. The proposed hospital belongs to the Metrobank Foundation group of companies.

2 real estate seminars set Aug. 24

TWO important subjects in real estate business and practice will be conducted by the Urban Institute of Real Estate on Aug. 24, from 1:30 to 6 p.m. at Joni's Bakeshop at the corner of Pasay Road and Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

To be taken up at 1:30-3:30 p.m. is Real Estate Taxation, which covers what taxes to pay, basis and how to compute, when and where to pay, BIR forms, exemptions from capital gains tax, E-VAT for real estate, estate and donor's tax, latest revenue regulations and other updates.

At 4-6 p.m is "Keys to a Successful Real Estate Office," which will cover the following topics: Scope of business operations, organizational structure, the office manager, recruitment techniques, advancement and career path programs, training programs, retention programs, commission structures, awards and other incentives, multiple listing and franchising.

For inquiries, the Urban Institute may be reached at 681-0928 or e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph

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INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals together with the 10% bid bond for the purchase on CASH BASIS of the Bank properties listed below will be received at the GSD Conference Room 25th Floor, LBP Plaza not later than August 30, 2002 @ 10:00 a.m. at which place, date & time, said proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

In case of closely clustered top bids (defined as having the second highest bid which is not below 90% of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be immediately followed by an open auction in which all bidders whose bids are not below 80% of the highest bid may participate. The minimum increase in the open bidding should not be lower than P1,000.

	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION VEHICLE	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID
1.	One (1) unit 1996 "Mitsubishi" L300 VV with Plate No. BBZ 956	Basement 100 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	220,000
2.	58,364-sq.m. parcel of land (w/Court Case #Q-00-42547. Forward Properties Inc. VS. LBP, RTC, NCJR, Br. 218, Q.C, Records of the case forwarded to Court of Appeals per Order dated Nov. 5, 2001)	Quirino H-way cor. Maligaya Drive, Novaliches, Quezon City (opposite SM Fairview & Robinsons Dept. Store)	426,057,000
3.	748-sq.m. lot with improvements	No. 119 Arayat St., Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	16,192,000
4.	Two (2) contiguous lots with improvements	Bo. Calumbayan (now Bagong Silang) Calatagan, Batangas	8,772,000
5.	78,114-sq.m. parcel of land	Bo. Talomo, Davao City	P7,747,135
6.	245-sq.m. lot with 3-storey commercial building	Maharlika Hi-way, Alicia, Isabela	6,300,000
7.	2,000 sq.m. parcel of land	Bo. Calumbayan (now Bagong Silang) Calatagan, Batangas	5,500,000
8.	13,225-sq.m. parcel of land with improvements	Bo. Concepcion, Batangas City	4,547,000
9.	19,011 sq.m. parcel of land	Barrios of Bagbag and Bungcalot, Tanauan, Batangas	2,626,000
10.	111.8-sq.m. residential condominium unit (townhouse type) identified as Unit VVI-118	Within Cluster 2 Valle Verde I, (BLCA) Condominium Project, Pasig City	2,777,000
11.	280-sq.m. lot with residential building	M. Consing St., BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City	2,350,000
12.	484-sq.m. lot with 3-storey residential building	Brgy. Janopol Oriental, Tanauan, Batangas	2,061,000
13.	Two contiguous lots with 2-storey residential bldg. and 5-door apartment	St. Andrew Street, Gonzales Subd., Bo. Abangan, Marilao, Bulacan	1,921,000
14.	240-sq.m. lot with bungalow type residential building	Aurora Pijuan Drive, BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City	1,540,000
15.	20,000-sq.m. lot with improvements	Brgy. Buensuceso, Arayat, Pampanga	1,508,000
16.	320-sq.m. lot with one-storey residential building	Easter Lily St., BF Homes (Phase 3) Subdivision, CaloocanCity	1,203,000
17.	80-sq.m. lot with 2-storey townhouse type building	15A Robert St., Pleasant View Subdivision, Tandang Sora, Q.C.	1,020,000
18.	180-sq.m. lot with 2-storey residential building	Jade St., Doña Juliana Subdivision, Rosario, Pasig City	1,000,000
19.	352-sq.m. residential land	Easter Lily St., BF Homes (Phase 3) Subdivision, Caloocan City	880,000
20.	996-sq.m. vacant lot	Within Greenfields Heights Subd., Bo. Bucal, Dasmariñas, Cavite	697,200
21.	800-sq.m. vacant lot	Within Greenfields Heights Subd., Bo. Bucal, Dasmariñas, Cavite	560,000
22.	800-sq.m. vacant lot	Within Greenfields Heights Subd., Bo. Bucal, Dasmariñas, Cavite	560,000
23.	254-sq.m. residential land	St. Andrew Street, Gonzales Subd., Bo. Abangan, Marilao, Bulacan	558,800
24.	64-sq.m. lot with two-storey residential building	Within Octaville Homes III, Suburban Heights Subdivision, Cainta, Rizal	543,000
25.	246-sq.m. residential land	St. Adrew Street, Gonzales Subd., Bo. Abangan, Marilao, Bulacan	541,200
26.	20,003-sq.m. lot with improvement	Poblacion, Buluan, Maguindanao (public bidding will be conducted at LBP Cotabato Lending Center, Region ARMM on 8/30/02 at 10 A.M.)	478,000
	CHATTELS		
27.	1 Unit Komatsu Hydraulic Excavator (N55313)	Cabuyao, Laguna	424,050
28.	1 Unit Komatsu Hydraulic Excavator (N36518)	Cabuyao, Laguna	214,500
29.	1 Unit Komatsu Wheel Loader (10276)	Mandaue City, Cebu	297,000
30.	1 Unit Komatsu Wheel Loader (20966)	Cabuyao, Laguna	371,250
31.	1 Unit Komatsu Motor Grader	Mandaue City, Cebu	184,800
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33.	1 Unit Recon. Linkbelt Mech. Crane	Cabuyao, Laguna	302,500

If for any reason the above-mentioned date is declared a non-working holiday, then the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned.

Bidding forms may be obtained from the Office of the Vice President, Special Assets Department (SPAD), Land Bank of the Philippines located at 25th Floor, LBP Plaza, 1598 M.H. Del Pilar cor. Dr. Quintos Sts., Malate, Manila (near Diamond Hotel). Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above listed properties before entering their bids. The sale of the properties shall be "AS-IS-WHERE-IS". Note however, that item No. 2 of this Invitation to Bid is subject to a Court Case. The winning bidder/s shall take possession of the awarded properties without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder/s shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities/President of the Republic of the Philippines whenever applicable.

LAND BANK RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN AND TO ACCEPT THE BID MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE LBP SHALL BE FINAL AND BINDING.

(Sgd.) JOSE C. NOGRALES
Chairman
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Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

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III. **Thoracic And Cardiovascular Surgery**
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7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your communications to:

JOSE A. YULDE, M.D.
Assistant Director
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

** Deadline for submission of application is on August 31, 2002*
** Academic Year 2003 starts on January 1, 2003*

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion (cp# 09196239902) or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia (cp# 09207645273) with Te. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

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The registration information fee includes entrance to all official events, the Congress training programs, and the following functions: Welcome Party, national parties, delegate lunches, and the Presidential Gala. Please note that your registration badge is required for entry to all Congress activities. Badge and ticket will be required for all meal functions.

Registration payments must be received at JCI Headquarters no later than September 15, 2002, to be considered as early registration. If credit card information received by that date is not complete, your registration will be considered late. ALL REGISTRATIONS COMPLETED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 15, 2002, SHOULD BE PRESENTED ON SITE IN LAS VEGAS FOR PROCESSING. PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT REGISTRATION TO THE JCI HEADQUARTERS AFTER OCTOBER 15, 2002. A cancellation charge of 25% of the full registration fee will be assessed if cancelled between September 15 and October 1, 2002. After October 1, no refunds will be given.

Payments
Please make payments in United States dollars. No personal checks or Euro checks will be accepted.

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Postal Code: Country:
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Profession:
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OBITUARIES

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Dr. Jesus Keyser Mercado

has rejoined his loving wife **Rosario E. Peñalosa** †; his brother **Vicente** † and his sister **Carmen Mercado Calma** †

and now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 18th of August, 2002, at the age of 90.

His children **Pilar**, **Severino**, **Erlinda**, **Vicente**, **George**, **Carmen Leonor**, **Natividad** and **Teresita**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Chapel of his residence in Pag-Asa Farms, Kapalong, Davao del Norte.

The funeral mass will be celebrated at the Chapel of Davao Memorial Park, Davao City at 10:00 a.m. of the 27th of August, 2002 prior to cremation. Thereafter, his ashes will be brought to the Chapel of his residence in Pag-Asa Farms, Kapalong, Davao del Norte.

In lieu of flowers, the family will appreciate donations to TAGUM FRIENDS OF THE HOME FOUNDATION INC., HOME FOR THE AGED.

MAJOR EDGARDO "Boyie" M. DELOS REYES, (PAF Inactive)

Peacefully joined our Creator and his father EDMUNDO S. DELOS REYES on August 17, 2002, at the age of 57.

His loving mother **MARINA**; wife **FELY** and children **Edmon** and **Jun-Jun**; sisters **Josie**, **Nene**, **Babee** and **B-girl**; brothers **Tikboy**, **Tony**, **Martin** and **Monching**; sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for his eternal repose.

His remains lie in state at St. Therese Chapel / Mortuary Villamor Air Base, Pasay City.

Interment will follow at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani Fort Bonifacio, Makati City, high noon, Wednesday, 21 August 2002.

FRANCISCO (JIMMY) L. CHUA, JR.

(Leveriza St., Pasay City, M.M.)
Peacefully joined his Creator on August 15, 2002 at the age of 54.

His bereaved wife **Erlinda**; children **Jocelyn** and **Aiman**, **Jessica** and **Ian**, **Jennifer**, **Joseph**; grandchildren **Jean-Adrianne**, **Jian**, **Mariam**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Rizal Funeral Homes, Inc., Pasay City, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on August 21, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

"From darkness let the light shine!"
Genesis 1:3

ANNOUNCEMENT

The remains of **SERVILLANO "SERLY" L. AQUINO** have been transferred from the Arlington funeral parlor in QC, to the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati. The body will lie in state until Wednesday, August 21, 2002, and will be brought to his hometown in Murcia, Tarlac, on Thursday, August 22, 2002 at 7 o'clock in the morning. Interment will be held on Saturday, August 24, 2002 after a mass that will start at 10 o'clock in the morning.

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"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it"
Matthew 10:39

FRANCISCA DEL ROSARIO TORRES

Peacefully joined our Lord on August 16, 2002 at the age of 95.

Her loving husband **JOSE L. TORRES** (†); children **Rodolfo** (†) & **Conching** (†), **Jose Jr.** & **Alice**, **Alicia** & **Pablo Santos**, **Alfredo** & **Chuchi**, **Emmanuel** & **Connie**, **Carlota** & **Willie Buhain**, **Hermie** & **Julie**, **Olivia** & **Sonny Balagtas**, **Antonio**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews and nieces request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel, Sucat Parañaque City.

Interment will be on August 28, 2002, 11:00 a.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

Please omit flowers.

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS
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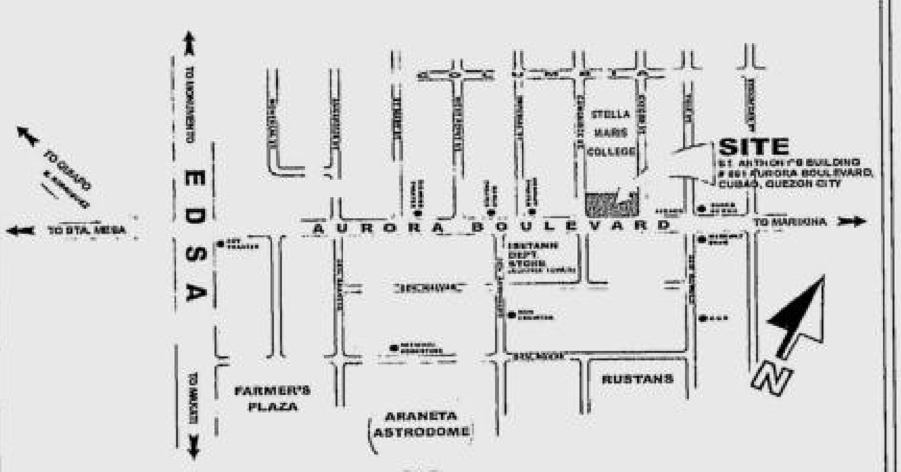

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LEOCADIO "Cady" J. DOMINGUEZ

peacefully joined his
Creator on August 17, 2002
at the age of 70

His wife ***Lil****, children* ***Carol****,* ***Vera****, and* ***Leo****, niece* ***Jeane,*** *granddaughter* ***Andrea****, relatives and friends request your prayers for our beloved* ***Cady****. Cady will always be remembered for his passion for work and his zest for life. He lived a full life and enjoyed every minute of it.*

His remains lie in state at the St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish Center, Magallanes Village, Makati City. Cremation will be on August 22, Thursday at the Manila Memorial Park after the 9:00 a.m. necrological services at the Magallanes Church, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

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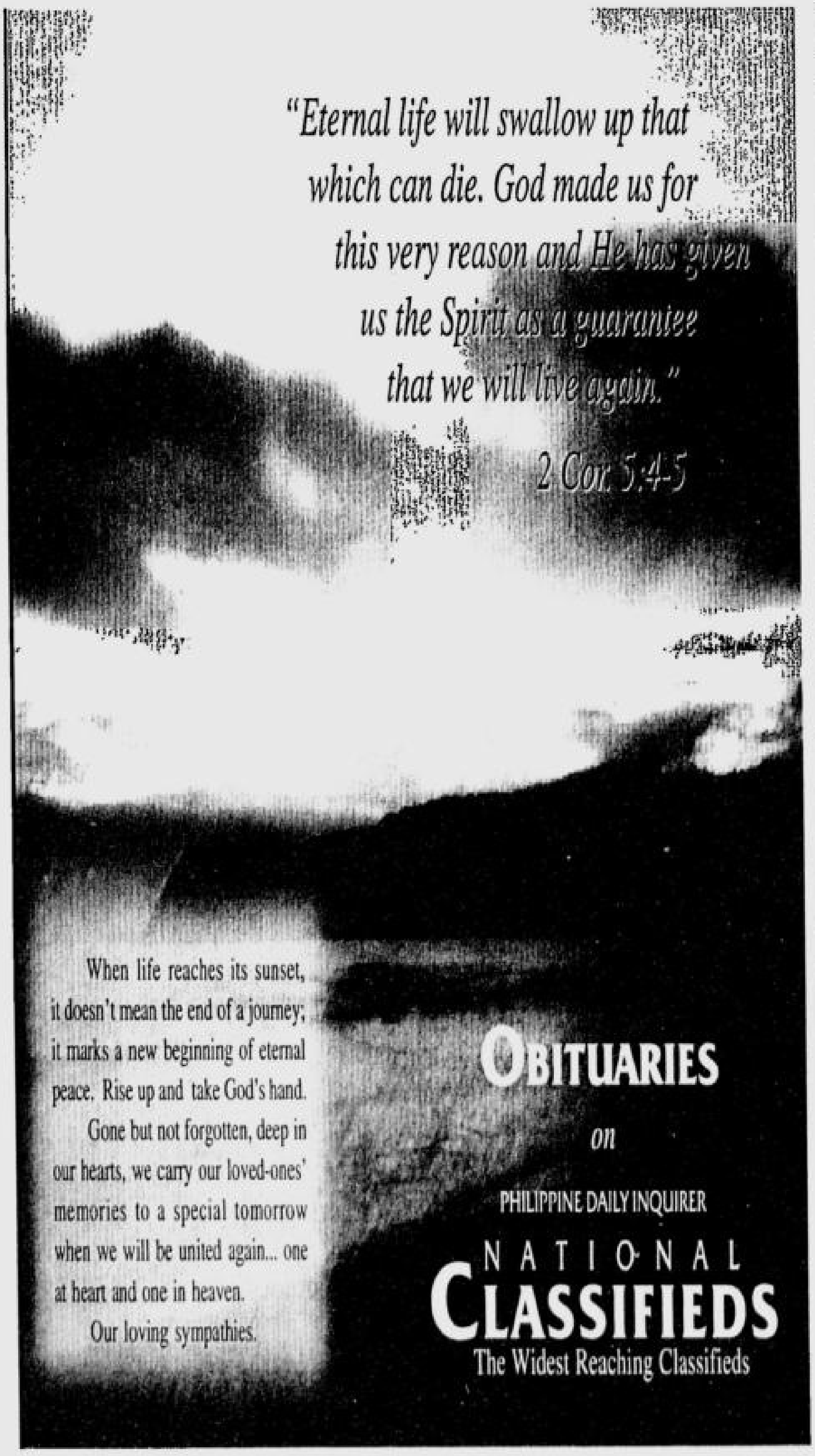
Staffbuilders Asia (SBA)

express their deepest sympathy and sincerest condolences to the bereaved family, relatives and friends of their beloved ***FOUNDER*** *and* ***PRESIDENT***

LEOCADIO "Cady" J. DOMINGUEZ

who peacefully passed away on August 17, 2002
at the age of 70

His remains lie in state at the St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish Center, Magallanes Village, Makati City. Cremation will be on August 22, Thursday at the Manila Memorial Park after the 9:00 a.m. necrological services at the Magallanes Church, Magallanes Village, Makati City.



"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Cor. 5:4-5

When life reaches its sunset, it doesn't mean the end of a journey; it marks a new beginning of eternal peace. Rise up and take God's hand.

Gone but not forgotten, deep in our hearts, we carry our loved-ones' memories to a special tomorrow when we will be united again... one at heart and one in heaven.

Our loving sympathies.

OBITUARIES
on
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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Message of Thanks

Priscilla S. Arce *and family*
of the late

MAURO C. ARCE, SR.

who peacefully joined his Creator
on July 22, 2002

sincerely extend their
profound gratitude
and heartfelt appreciation
to all those who in countless ways,
condoled and comforted them
in the hour of their deepest sorrow.

GDP grew 3.8% in Q2, Canlas says

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE ECONOMY probably grew by at least 3.8 percent in the second quarter of the year, Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said yesterday.

Canlas told reporters a rebound in the industrial sector and continuing growth in the services sector compensated for a slowdown in farm output from April to June. Growth in gross domestic product might even hit 4 percent, he said.

GDP is the monetary value of all goods and services produced by an economy over a specified period. It includes consumption, government purchases, investments and exports minus imports. This is perhaps the greatest indicator of the economic health of a country.

The National Economic and Development Authority will release second-quarter growth figures on Aug. 29.

Canlas said he expected the industrial sector to contribute more to growth this year, as global demand for Philippine exports was improving. "We will meet our whole year target of 4- to 4.5-percent GDP (growth)," Canlas said.

He said the government had already considered a slowdown in the agriculture sector in its forecast of a 3.8- to 4-percent GDP growth in the second quarter.

"Our quarterly growth projected only a rate of 1.5 percent for agriculture in the second quarter. The actual performance of 2.5-percent growth was, in fact, even better," Canlas said.

The agriculture sector, which makes up 20 percent of GDP output, helped the country chalk up a 3.8-percent growth in the first quarter.

"(The) projected weak growth in agriculture is compensated by the recovery in manufacturing, growth in industries and continuing growth in services, particularly transport and telecommunication services, retailing and wholesaling, call centers and software services, and other backroom operations," Canlas said.

The industrial sector probably grew by 2.6 percent in the second quarter from 1.9 percent in the first quarter, Canlas said.

Manufacturing output expanded in double digits, while the services sector went up by 5.5 percent in the second quarter from 4.8 percent in the first quarter, he said.

Canlas is set to join Foreign Secretary Blas Ople and Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, on Aug. 26 to Sept. 4 this year.

The Philippine delegation consists of some 68 government and private sector representatives.

Canlas, chair of the Philippine Council on Sustainable Development, said among the actions that the delegation would support were:

- the establishment of the World Solidarity Fund to be used to finance alleviation programs in developing countries;
- debt relief or debt cancellation that would not compromise official development assistance loans intended for developing countries;
- setting of clear targets and timelines for reducing poverty and the number of people without access to water and sanitation; and,
- adoption of renewable energy.

IATA sees 5.7% drop in PAL's Trans-Pac route

By Abigail L. Ho

THE INTERNATIONAL Air Transport Association has said traffic along the Trans-Pacific route that local flagcarrier Philippine Airlines Inc. services will drop by 5.7 percent.

International aviation expert Rigas Doganis said in a presentation that Iata's annual passenger growth forecasts from this year to 2005 showed that only the Trans-Pacific route would drop.

Other routes will experience weak growth, he said. These include the North Atlantic, Europe-Far East, within Far East and Europe-Africa routes.

The North Atlantic route is seen growing by 1.6 percent this year; Europe-Far East, 0.5 percent; within Far East, 4.2 percent; and, Europe-Africa, 2 percent.

"The Iata has revised all its forecasts after the Sept. 11 incident. Although there will be growth in the number of passengers, revenues will not grow much because fares will be dropping to stimulate demand," Doganis said.

He added that the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States alone did not cause the slowdown in the airline industry but merely aggravated its already bad shape.

Since 1999, airlines all over the world have been posting losses and scaling down operations.

He cited over-capacity in many markets, as well as the slowdown in key economies like Japan and the United States, as main reasons for the overall slowdown.

With over-capacity, there are too many airlines servicing the same routes. Because of this, airlines usually take off carrying only a handful of passengers, resulting in narrower margins and even losses.

Napocor dismisses calls to shut down coal power plants

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. yesterday dismissed calls for the shut down of its coal-fired power plants as mere "dirty tricks" by those that stand to benefit from the closure of the plants.

A ranking Napocor official said questions on the power firm's compliance with environmental standards should no longer be a cause for concern as these have long been addressed.

"But these groups (against our coal plants) would rather look past facts and launch a propaganda campaign," he said. "Whose interests are they pushing?"

The official said, for instance that despite the 600-megawatt Calaca plant's getting a clean bill from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Ateneo-based Philippine Institute of Pure and Applied Chemistry (Pipac), the groups continue to raise the issue of mercury contamination.

He was referring to Greenpeace, which raised the alarm last year on the Calaca plant turning the host community into a "potential graveyard due to toxic levels of mercury from ashes disposed from the plant."

"If they do not believe our compliance rating, they should go to the DENR and lobby for a new set of standards," the official said. "Why are they punishing us for (following) the standards set under the Clean Air Act?"

He also noted that Pipac was the same agency that Greenpeace named for testing the emission samples "allegedly" taken from Calaca.

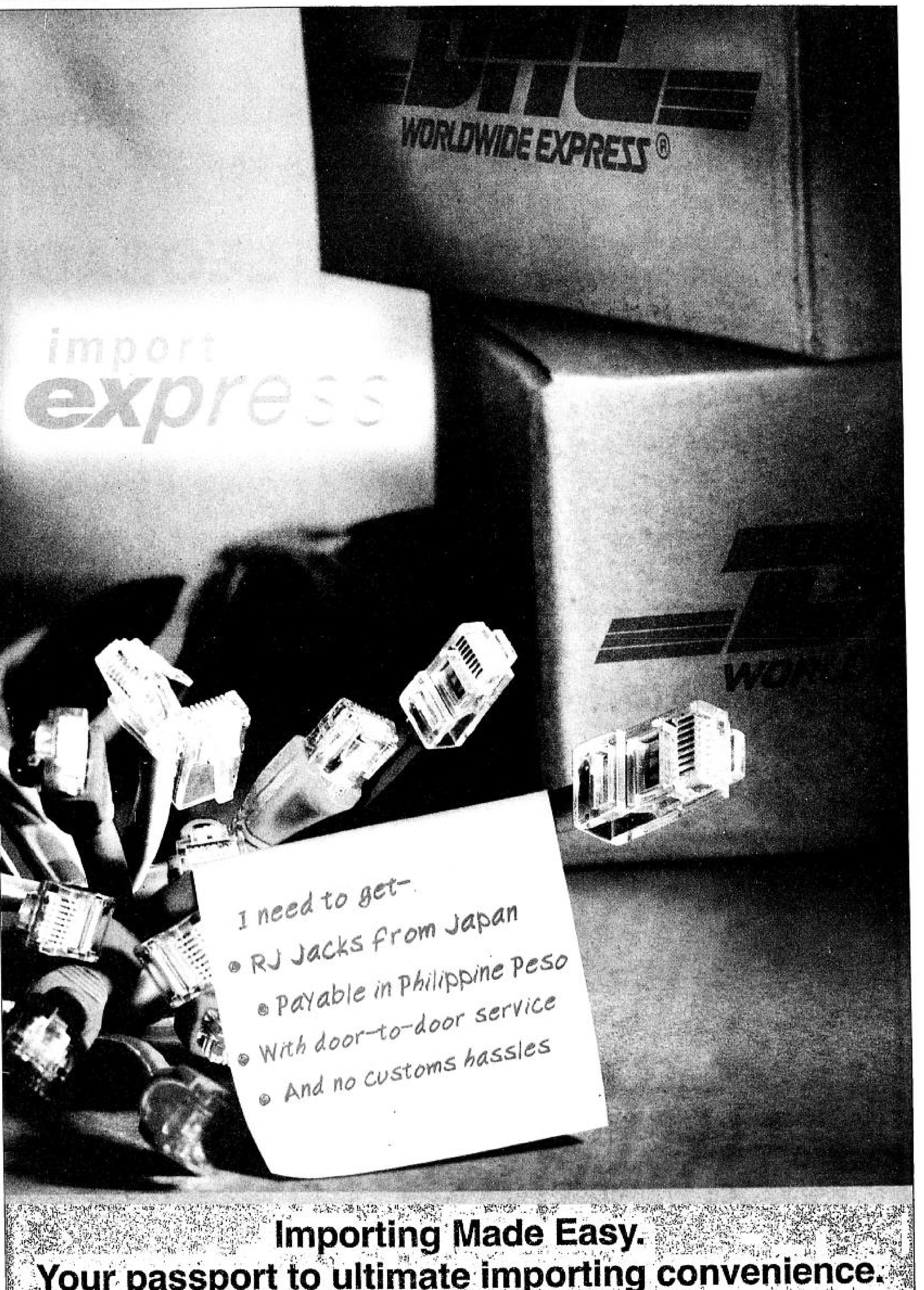
"When Greenpeace revived the issue on mercury this year, it conveniently used the results taken from its own laboratory in the United Kingdom," the official said.

He cautioned the public against listening to black propaganda, especially when it focuses on the Calaca plant in Batangas.

"It makes one wonder why out of the numerous coal plants operating in the country, Calaca is being singled out," he said.

Earlier, Napocor officer in charge/president Roland Quilala told a Senate hearing that the firm submits emission rates of different substances to the DENR.

Quilala said Napocor monitors its plants' emission of hydrogen sulfide, mercury, nitrogen oxide, particulates and sulfur oxides using the National Emission Standards for Source Specific Air Pollutants.



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LIFESTYLE

Fitness

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

How to use a pedometer properly

A pedometer's panic alarm is very useful for anyone who wants to take long walks alone

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

IN LAST week's column, I mentioned that a pedometer, a small device that is clipped to your waistband, is a relatively inexpensive way of getting enough exercise throughout the day even if you don't do structured forms of exercise like sports, going to the gym, or taking aerobic classes.

A pedometer or digimeter (as it is sometimes called) counts how many steps you take in a given period. It can do this because it has a horizontal lever inside that senses the vertical motions (like walking or running) your body makes.

Pedometers do a fairly good job of counting your steps but are not as accurate when calculating your distance and number of calories you have burned even if you enter in data like your stride

HOW/ p.C3

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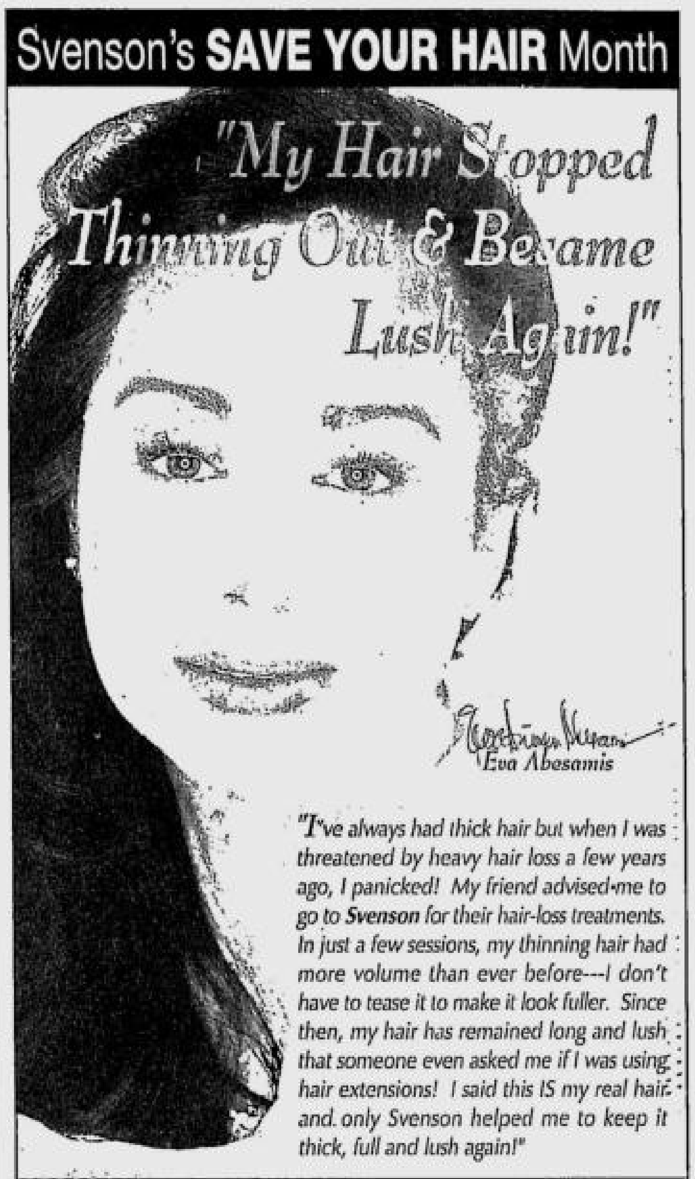

"My Hair Stopped Thinning Out & Became Lush Again!"

Eva Abesamis

*"I've always had thick hair but when I was threatened by heavy hair loss a few years ago, I panicked! My friend advised me to go to **Svenson** for their hair-loss treatments. In just a few sessions, my thinning hair had more volume than ever before---I don't have to tease it to make it look fuller. Since then, my hair has remained long and lush that someone even asked me if I was using hair extensions! I said this IS my real hair and only Svenson helped me to keep it thick, full and lush again!"*

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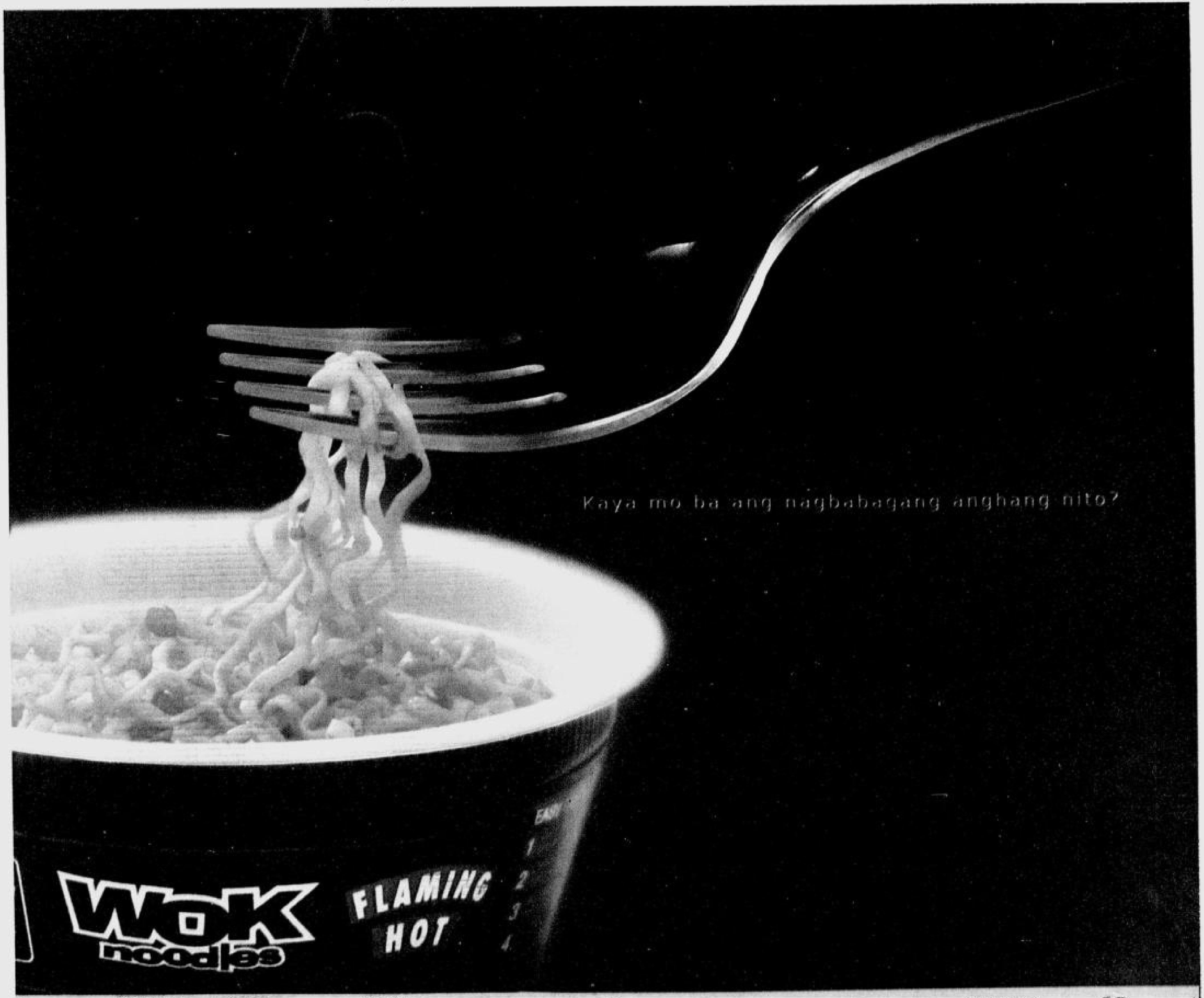
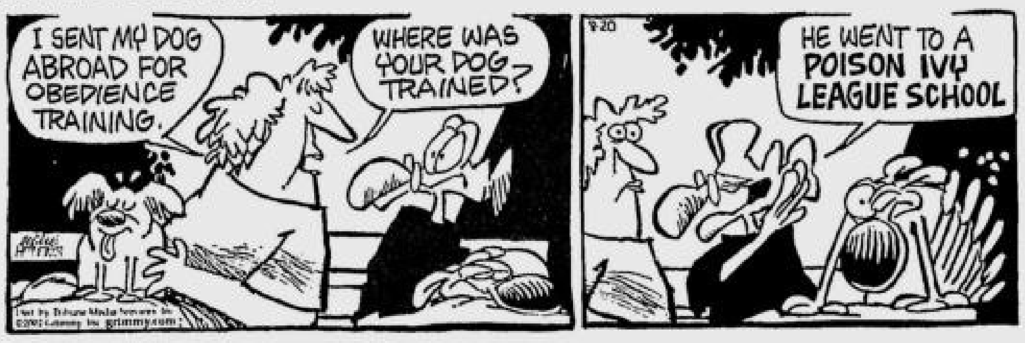
MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)



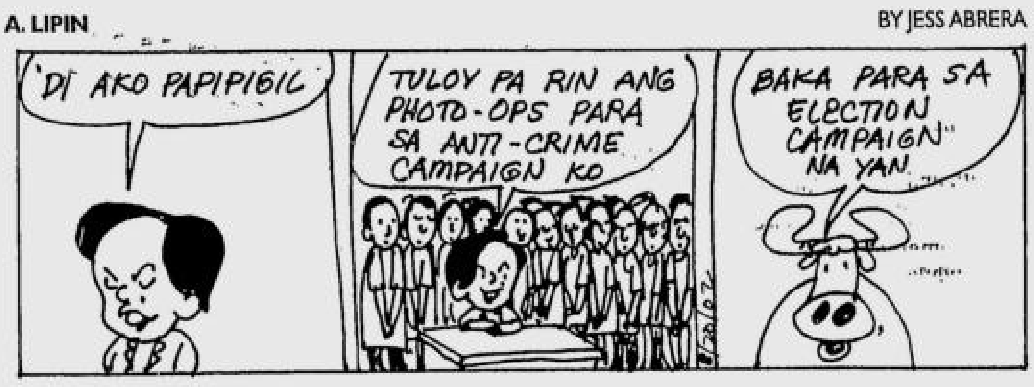
Sa sarap ng bagong Flaming Hot Wok Noodles, kakayanin mo! 'Sing sarap ng stir fried sa wok pero walang 'sing anghang. Kung sa tingin mo kaya mo—tikman na nang magkaalaman na!

Also available SAVORY SHRIMP SUPREME WOK noodles

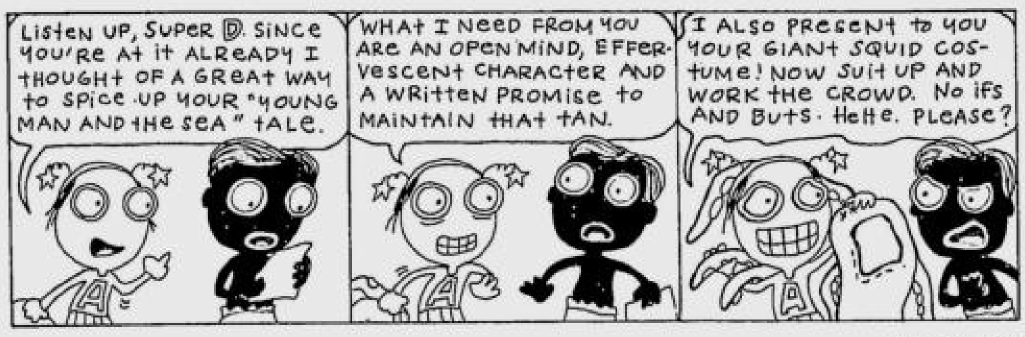
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM
BY MIKE PETERS


I SENT MY DOG ABROAD FOR OBEDIENCE TRAINING.
WHERE WAS YOUR DOG TRAINED?
HE WENT TO A POISON IVY LEAGUE SCHOOL

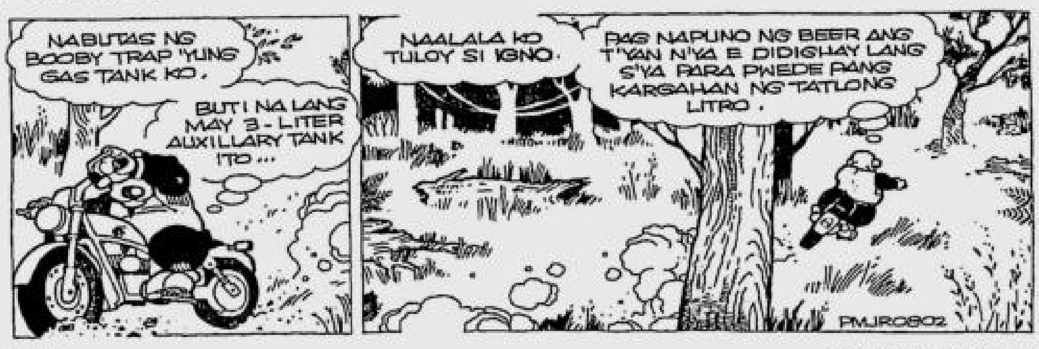
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


'DI AKO PAPIPIGIL
TULOY PA RIN ANG PHOTO-OPS PARA SA ANTI-CRIME CAMPAIGN KO
BAKA PARA SA "ELECTION CAMPAIGN" NA YAN

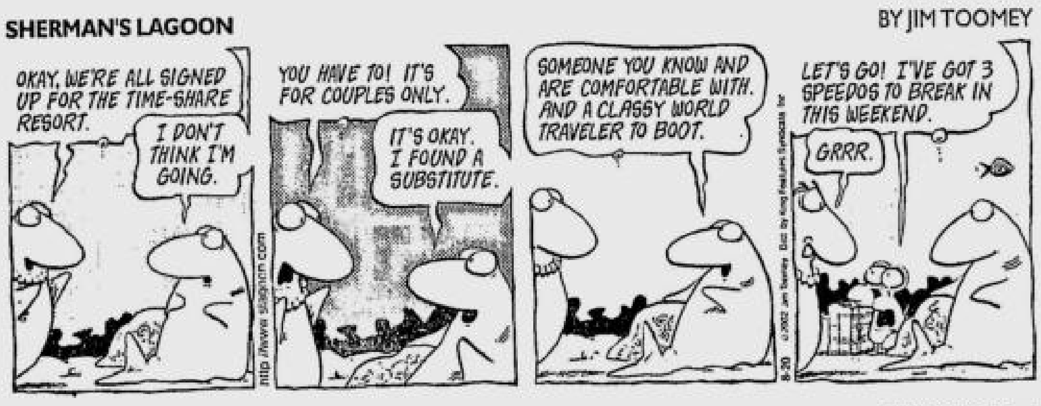
ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Listen up, Super D. Since you're at it already I thought of a great way to spice up your "Young man and the sea" tale.
What I need from you are an open mind, effervescent character and a written promise to maintain that tan.
I also present to you your giant squid costume! Now suit up and work the crowd. No ifs and buts. Hehe. Please?

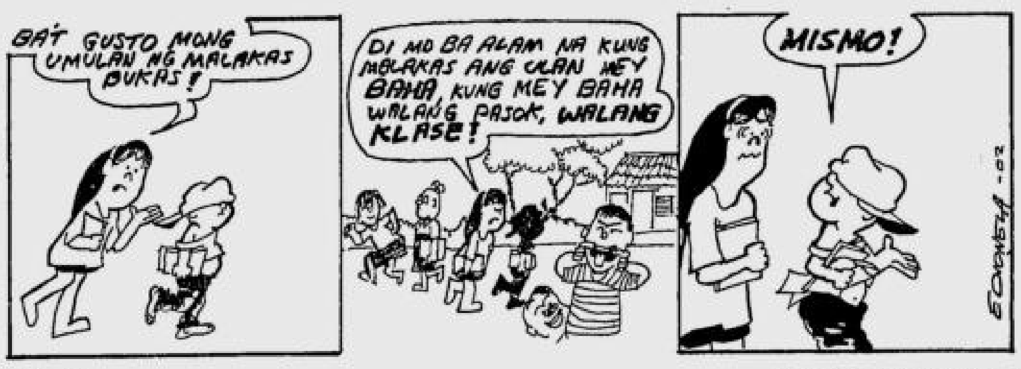
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


NABUTAS NG BOOBY TRAP 'YUNG GAS TANK KO.
BUTI NA LANG MAY 3-LITER AUXILLARY TANK ITO...
NAALALA KO TULOY SI IGNO.
PAG NAPUNO NG BEER ANG T'YAN N'YA E DIDIGHAY LANG S'YA PARA PWEDE PANG KARGAHAN NG TATLONG LITRO.
PMJR0802

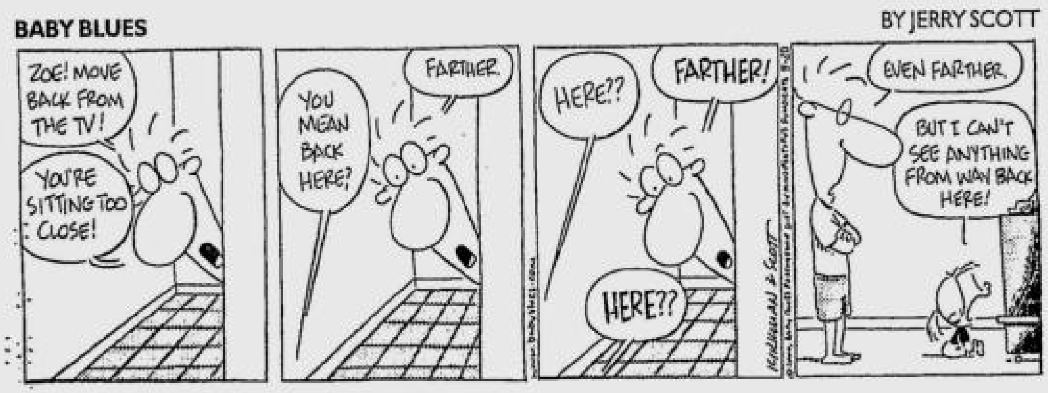
SHERMAN'S LAGOON
BY JIM TOOMEY


OKAY, WE'RE ALL SIGNED UP FOR THE TIME-SHARE RESORT.
I DON'T THINK I'M GOING.
YOU HAVE TO! IT'S FOR COUPLES ONLY.
IT'S OKAY. I FOUND A SUBSTITUTE.
SOMEONE YOU KNOW AND ARE COMFORTABLE WITH. AND A CLASSY WORLD TRAVELER TO BOOT.
LET'S GO! I'VE GOT 3 SPEEDOS TO BREAK IN THIS WEEKEND.
GRRR.
http://www.slagoon.com
8-20

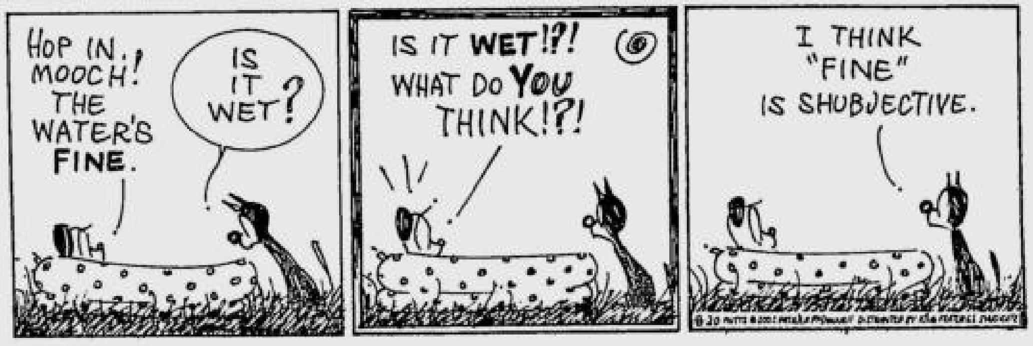
SIMO
BY EDGAR DIONELA


BA'T GUSTO MONG UMULAN NG MALAKAS BUKAS?
DI MO BA ALAM NA KUNG MALAKAS ANG ULAN MEY BAHA, KUNG MEY BAHA WALANG PASOK, WALANG KLASE!
MISMO!
EDIONELA -02

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


ZOE! MOVE BACK FROM THE TV!
YOU'RE SITTING TOO CLOSE!
FARTHER
YOU MEAN BACK HERE?
HERE??
FARTHER!
HERE??
EVEN FARTHER.
BUT I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING FROM WAY BACK HERE!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
8-20

MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HOP IN, MOOCH! THE WATER'S FINE.
IS IT WET?
IS IT WET!?! WHAT DO YOU THINK!?!
I THINK "FINE" IS SHUBJECTIVE.

HOROSCOPE
BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Connie Chung, Courtney Gibbs, Isaac Hayes, Robert Plant

Happy Birthday: Your attitude is great, and you know in your heart that you're ready to take on the world. You will fight for what's yours and you won't tolerate anyone who stands in your way. You have come a long way and this is the year for you to forge ahead and follow your dreams. Your numbers are 2, 14, 27, 31, 38, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep a low profile until midday, and then you should be free to do as you please. Your interaction with people who believe in the same things you do will be gratifying.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your mind will be on philosophy, changing attitudes and taking a new direction in life. Double-check your motives and be honest with yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may be called upon to take care of other people's responsibilities. Do so with speed so you don't miss an opportunity to do something with people you enjoy. The company you keep will make the difference.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you let your emotions take over, you can suffer the backlash. If someone does something you don't like, turn a blind eye. This is not the day to voice your opinion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): If someone interests you, take the initiative and get to know them better. Whether it has to do with your professional or personal life, you must not put off what you could do now. This is a great day to do things that could lead to extra cash.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If you put your creative ideas into play, you will feel good about yourself, your abilities and your future. Don't lend money to friends if you wish to keep the connection.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You must make changes that will bring you peace and harmony in your personal life. In your professional life, you must go in the direction that will bring the highest rewards.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Surround yourself with people you know you can trust, and you'll be able to protect yourself and your interests. Friends will be comforting. You need to give some thought to your future plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make plans to get out and do the things you enjoy the most. You may want to address issues that concern a partner, friend or family. You can resolve issues if you turn on the charm.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll be in an enterprising phase today, so don't waste it. If you have a good idea for business, put your plans into motion. This is not the time to let your emotions get the better of you.

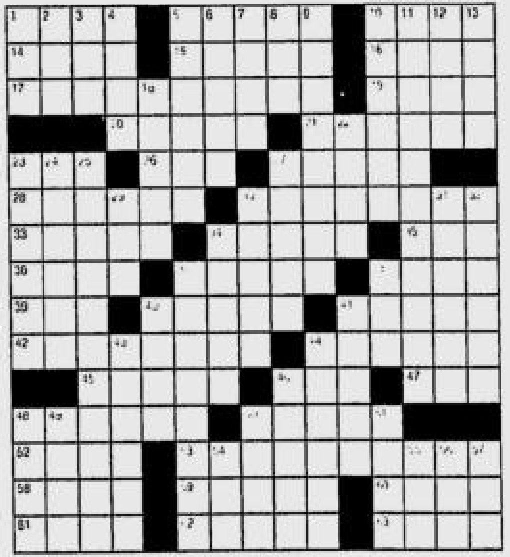
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may find it difficult to concentrate today. Keep your personal secrets to yourself and you'll avoid unnecessary intervention. Take your time and reevaluate your motives.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your ability to see both sides of a conflict will enable you to make the best decision for yourself. Your patience and compassion will enhance your reputation.

Birthday Baby: You will be an innovative individual. You have a practical side to you. You are bright, calculating and quick to learn.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Gerald R. Ferguson
Portland, OR

8/20/02

ACROSS
1 Pinnacle
5 __ Heights
10 Thunder peal
14 Explosive report
15 Very chubby
16 Swiss river
17 Funny volumes
19 Ladder piece
20 Screen parts
21 Ballroom dances
23 Qty.
26 Fleur-de-__
27 God of Islam
28 Island of the Marianas
30 Making holes
33 Printers' measures
34 Groups of wolves
35 Lon __ of Cambodia
36 Part of BPOE
37 Liquefy
38 Gawk at
39 Zilch
40 Was mistaken
41 "Cosmos" author Carl
42 Lip curlers
44 Hair piece?
45 Molten metal scum
46 __ Tome and Principe
47 987-65-4321 group
48 Skip
50 Singing cowboy Gene
52 Author of "Lucky Jim"
53 Festivities participant
58 Occupation
59 Join in
60 Fuzzy fruit
61 Irritates
62 Approaches
63 Part of a process

DOWN
1 Alphabet start
2 Pigeon sound
3 Family member
4 Abu Dhabi ruler
5 Evil elf
6 Certain reeds
7 Tolstoy and Gorcey
8 Pose questions
9 Resembling a bird's home
10 Sensual
11 Nitrous oxide
12 River in Tuscany
13 Tent stakes
18 Pepsi and RC
22 "... __ right with the world"
23 Quaking trees
24 Type of rebate
25 Colorfully amused
27 Followed a trajectory
29 Faux __
30 Calls a chicken
31 Bushnell and Ryan
32 Jackson of "Women in Love"
34 Siamese sounds?
37 Printers
38 Rower's need
40 Love god
41 Violent outburst
43 Rubs out
44 Woodland deities
46 More certain
48 Island off Java
49 Norse giant
50 Gulf of the Ionian Sea
51 Asian oxen
54 180 degrees from WSW
55 Set of parts
56 Flock member
57 Actor Torn

Monday's Puzzle Solved

M	A	T	E	S	■	T	R	O	Y	■	M	C	C	L
A	B	O	V	E	■	H	O	L	E	■	A	L	O	E
M	E	T	E	R	M	A	I	D	S	■	J	A	V	A
A	L	F	■	M	E	W	■	E	M	P	O	W	E	R
■	■	■	F	O	R	■	G	R	E	E	R	■	■	■
S	T	R	O	N	G	E	R	■	N	E	L	L	I	E
O	H	I	O	■	E	V	E	R	■	P	E	A	R	S
L	E	S	T	■	D	I	N	E	D	■	A	B	E	T
O	D	E	T	S	■	L	A	N	E	■	G	O	N	E
S	A	S	H	E	S	■	D	E	N	T	U	R	E	S
■	■	■	E	L	A	T	E	■	I	R	E	■	■	■
A	L	A	B	A	M	A	■	P	R	O	■	H	B	I
T	E	R	I	■	S	C	H	O	O	L	Y	A	R	D
O	V	A	L	■	O	K	I	E	■	L	O	C	A	L
M	I	L	L	■	N	Y	E	T	■	S	U	E	D	E

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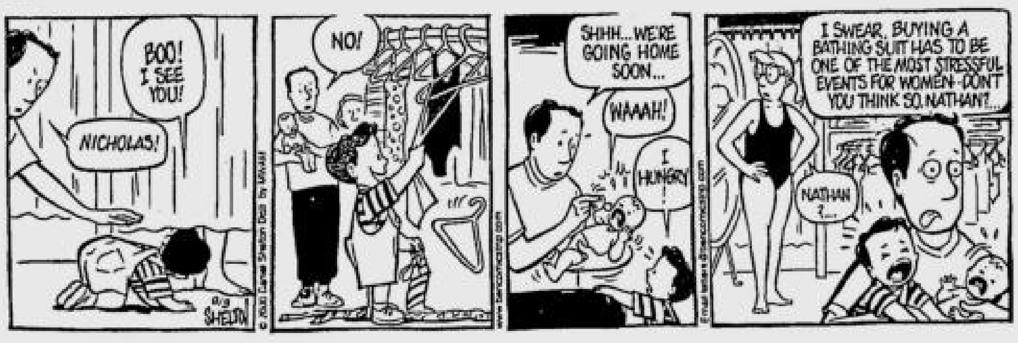
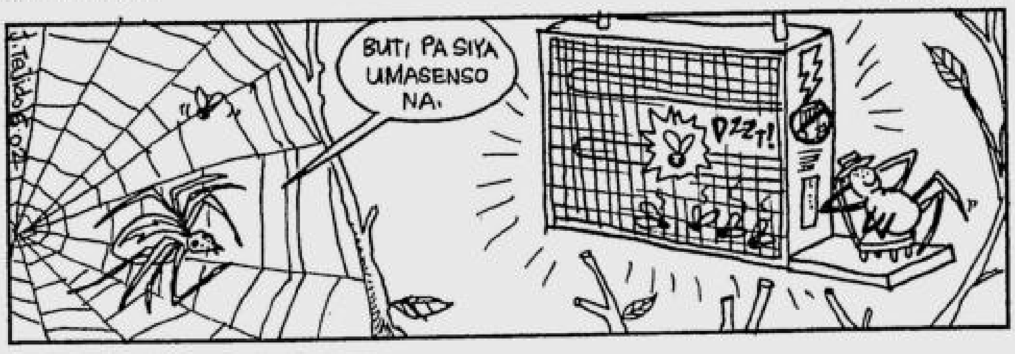
8/20/02

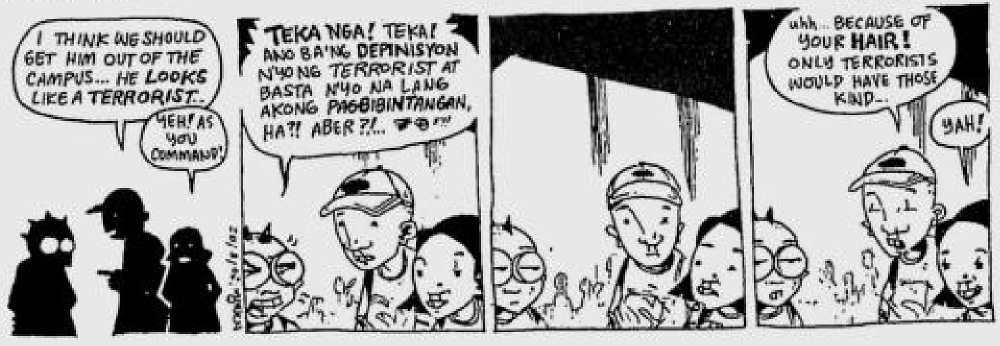
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


BOO! I SEE YOU!
NICHOLAS!
NO!
SHHH... WE'RE GOING HOME SOON...
WAAAH!
I HUNGRY!
I SWEAR, BUYING A BATHING SUIT HAS TO BE ONE OF THE MOST STRESSFUL EVENTS FOR WOMEN - DON'T YOU THINK SO, NATHAN?
NATHAN ?...

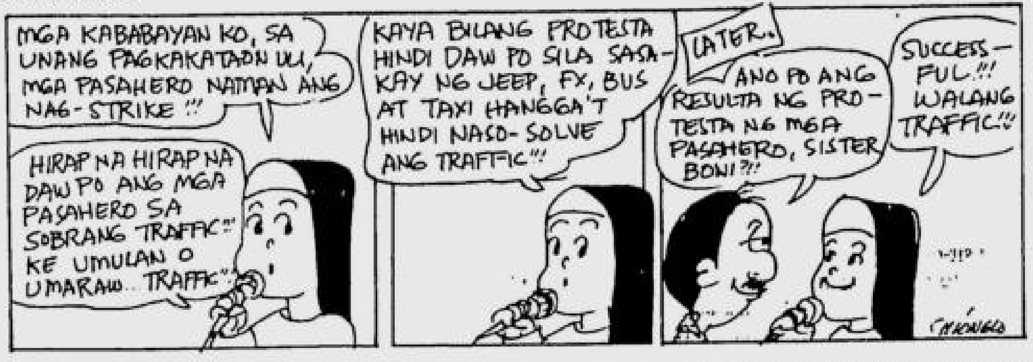
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BUTI PA SIYA UMASENSO NA.
DZZT!
J.Tejido 8.02

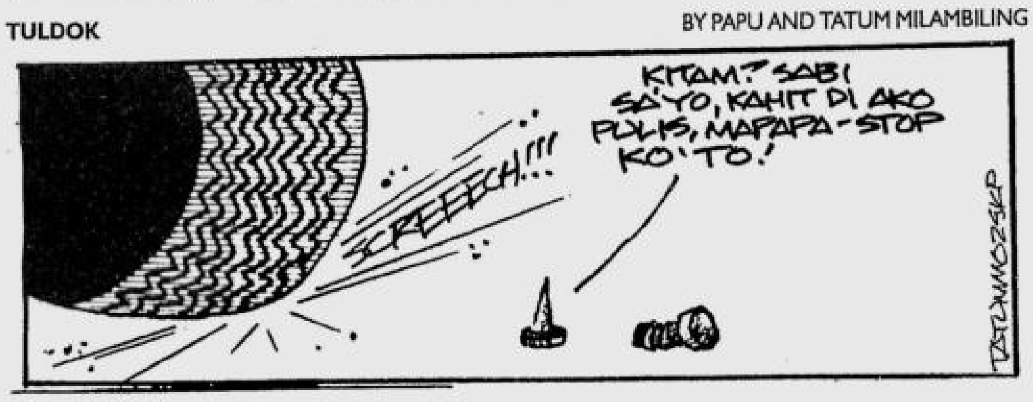
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


I THINK WE SHOULD GET HIM OUT OF THE CAMPUS... HE LOOKS LIKE A TERRORIST..
YEH! AS YOU COMMAND!
TEKA NGA! TEKA! ANO BA'NG DEPINISYON N'YO NG TERRORIST AT BASTA N'YO NA LANG AKONG PAGBIBINTANGAN, HA?! ABER?!..
uhh... BECAUSE OF YOUR HAIR! ONLY TERRORISTS WOULD HAVE THOSE KIND..
YAH!

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MGA KABABAYAN KO, SA UNANG PAGKAKATAON ULI, MGA PASAHERO NAMAN ANG NAG-STRIKE!!!
HIRAP NA HIRAP NA DAW PO ANG MGA PASAHERO SA SOBRANG TRAFFIC" KE UMULAN O UMARAW... TRAFFIC"
KAYA BILANG PROTESTA HINDI DAW PO SILA SASAKAY NG JEEP, FX, BUS AT TAXI HANGGA'T HINDI NASO-SOLVE ANG TRAFFIC"!
LATER..
ANO PO ANG RESULTA NG PROTESTA NG MGA PASAHERO, SISTER BONI?!
SUCCESSFUL!!! WALANG TRAFFIC!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


KITAM? SABI SA'YO, KAHIT DI AKO PULIS, MAPAPA-STOP KO 'TO!
SCREEECH!!!

How to use a pedometer properly

From page C1

length and weight. Most pedometers will vary by about 10 percent in calculating your distance.

Pedometers can count your steps while walking, running, or hiking if they have these features although it can be inaccurate if you hike over rugged terrain.

For a pedometer to accurately count the number of steps you take, it has to remain in an upright, vertical position so most manufacturers encourage you to clip the device to your waistband in line with the crease of your pants. If you have a big tummy, experts suggest clipping it on your waistband directly under your armpit or even behind. If you have a high waist, try clipping it to your shoe.

How to choose a pedometer

A pedometer's price ranges from $10-$100. You can find a simple but reasonably accurate one (remember it is best at counting steps) between $15-$30 (local sporting good stores carry them). Here are some tips to consider:

- If you are going to wear it all day, it should be comfortable against your skin.
- It should clip firmly to your waistband or belt. No use buying a pedometer that will fall out if you bend down to pick up something.
- If you wear reading glasses, it should have a display big enough to read without having to always reach for your spectacles.
- You should be able to read the display without removing it from your waistband.
- It should have a display cover; otherwise, you might press the buttons accidentally and erase all your data for the day.
- Unless you enjoy using a device with all the "bells and whistles," stick to the simplest model you can find. You might spend a lot of time going back to the manual to figure out what to do next.

Even though pedometers are relatively inexpensive, you may want to find out about warranties and after-sales service in case your pedometer gets broken or doesn't work properly. If you don't want to hassle with all that, just buy a new one if something goes wrong.

Gadget freaks

The simplest pedometers count your steps and distance. The fancier ones have calorie estimates, stopwatches, timers, speed estimators and a seven-day memory. Now, if you want to get really fancy, there are pedometers that will take your pulse and body fat percentage. If you are lonely, there are talking pedometers that will tell you how far you have walked and how many steps you have taken. Next thing you know, they'll be making one that dispenses advice for your love life.

Avid golfers can buy golf pedometers that keep track of their score. People who are always getting lost can actually buy a pedometer with a built-in GPS or Global Positioning System (it costs about $100). Music fans can avail of a pedometer with an FM radio. The most useful accessory, in my opinion, of any pedometer is the "panic alarm." According to the manufacturer, this particular pedometer will emit a piercing wail, similar to that of a car alarm, when the pin is detached from the unit. I think it's a must for anyone who likes to take long walks alone.

How to use your pedometer to lose weight

Here are the steps to take according to weight loss experts who have successfully used pedometers in their programs:

- Use your pedometer for one week without changing your activity level. Just do what you always do. Every night before sleeping, write down how many steps you took that day. At the end of the week, get your average. This is your baseline.
- Ask yourself how you can increase the number of steps you take by 10-20 percent.
- You be the judge of how fast you can increase the number of steps you take until you reach 10,000-15,000 steps a day.
- If it's your first time to use a pedometer and discover that you are already taking 10,000 steps but you are overweight, either increase the speed at which you walk or increase the number of steps. There have been cases of people needing to walk 18,000 steps to lose weight, usually because they did not want to make changes in their eating habits.

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines announces that the Aug. 24 fitness seminar has been rescheduled to Sept. 21. This year's Life Fitness Academy Personal Training Seminar has been cancelled.

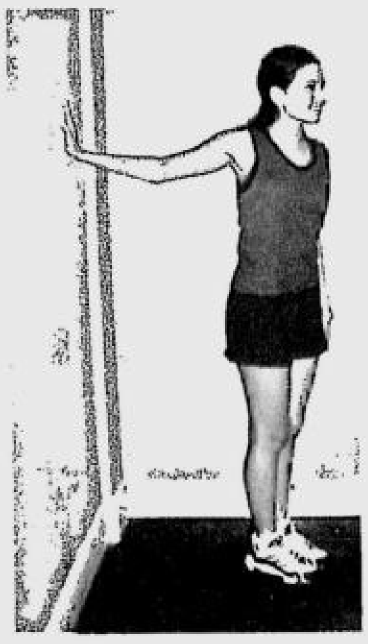
Watch "In Fitness and In Health" on Studio 23 (Channel 42 on Destiny Cable), Mondays to Fridays, 6-6:30 a.m.

For past articles and exercises, go to www.tinajuanfitness.com

Write me at PDI Lifestyle or e-mail fitness@ibm.net

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Wall chest stretch



STRETCHES muscles of the chest and front of the shoulder.

Equipment:
A wall.

Exercise technique:
Stand an arm's length away from a wall. Keeping your hand steady on the wall, slowly turn your whole body to the opposite direction. Hold for at least 10 seconds.

Repeat on the other side.

Performance tips:
Keep your arm at shoulder level height, not higher or lower. Stretch only to the point of mild tension in your chest muscles.

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Confessions of an addict

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

IT is addicting, to say the least. Once you've tried it, there's no breaking the habit. But until you get there, the path to wellness is filled with temptations, challenges and frustrations. But the results are delightful.

A true story

How I chose the road to wellness was accidental. From childhood to my teens, I had been hounded by a weight problem; my being underweight was considered a perennial crisis. No matter what I ate, it registered no positive results on the weight scale. No amount of food or vitamin supplements could give me the relief I sought. Ten pounds was all that mattered; it stood between the ugly duckling and the swan in me.

Too much, too soon

Perhaps joining the corporate world turned out to be a boon for me, or was it? As a public relations director for Hyatt Regency Hotel, one of my main responsibilities was to organize events and entertain VIPs. This, of course, required me to literally wine and dine.

There wasn't a day devoid of a glass of Bordeaux or a plateful of gourmet cuisine all orchestrated by the executive chef to my liking. Little did I expect that such a lifestyle would soon take its toll on me.

Up until then, my elusive 10 pounds remained unreachable. But when I slipped into my favorite little black dress one night, it was obvious that I had done the impossible: gaining weight! To my great distress, the scale showed that I was also 15 pounds overweight.

Drastic measures

Taking the law into your own hands can be extremely empowering. And this is exactly what I set out to do. Could it have been my vanity, or my frugal nature that took over? Refusing to be fat and spending for a new dress were the greatest of motivating factors. Right then and there I declared war on my bulges.

Battling the bulge

How does one lose 15 pounds in two weeks? I expected to fit into my cocktail dress in time for the next sit-down dinner. I followed these rules:

Enroll in a gym. Every noontime, I was at the gym (five times a week). My routine consisted of 20 minutes on the treadmill and one hour of weight training.

Diet. Meals were restricted to vegetables, tofu and grilled fish or chicken, with my rice consumption reduced to half a cup per meal. No desserts. Snacks consisted of fresh fruits (the hotel's Japanese restaurant became my favorite hangout).

Battle cry. Each morning, I would stand naked before a mirror and affirm myself with the following mantra: "I am slimmer and sexier now."

Meditation. Fifteen minutes of quiet time to calm my mind twice a day—upon waking up and before bedtime.

Supplements. One multivitamin/mineral pill plus 1,000 mg of Vitamin C daily after breakfast.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Revenge is sweet

Success is the best form of revenge. If you're determined to overcome an enemy and succeed in the process, the victory can be intoxicating.

Initially, the enemy was my excess fat. Or so I thought. All the time I religiously pursued my fitness goal; I imagined a stronger and sexier body. When I finally conquered the limbo called overweight and seemed pleased with myself, I faced a defining moment.

My awakening led me to realize that my real enemy was myself. And that the reason I had a problem in the first place was my lack of discipline and interest in my health.

Lifestyle

Since then, I have embraced a wellness lifestyle, one that transcends the realm of fitness and beauty. A way of enjoying the best of everything without guilt.

Next week, we'll talk about one of the greatest pleasures in life—eating—and the toughest challenge of all—cheating on your diet and still losing weight!

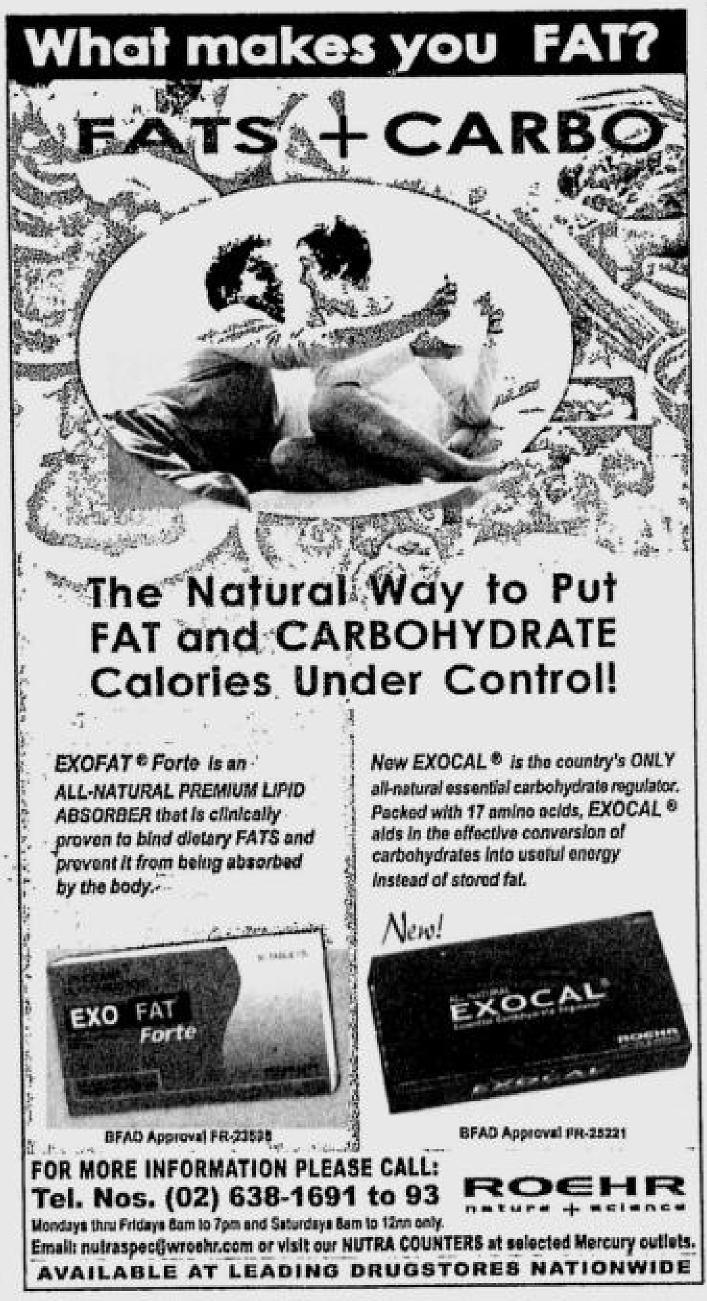
Love and light!

"Total Wellness," the body-mind-spirit workshop by Jimmy Licauco and Cory Quirino will soon be presented to the public. Schedule to be confirmed this week. Call 637-9653 or 892-6806.

"Forever Young" (revised edition) is now available at National Bookatore and PowerBooks.

Watch the author's beauty rituals at 8 a.m. daily , "Beauty In & Out," on "Unang Hirit,' GMA 7.

E-mail the author at coryquirino_fy@yahoo.com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Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

I am enrolled under an individual program. My doctor requested that I undergo gastroscopy to fully evaluate the severity of my gastritis. Is this examination covered?

The diagnostic test gastroscopy is classified under complex diagnostic procedures (CDP). Under our individual program, CPDs are covered up to P 5,000 each per member per year but is however subject to the coverage on pre -existing conditions (PEC). In essence, if you have PEC coverage and have not availed endoscopic examination for this illness within this contract year, then your diagnostic exam is covered.

Meet your MEDICard Team

Dr. Rosanna Garcia-Enciso is MEDICard's accredited pediatrician based in the World Citi Medical Center (WCMC), formerly QCMC. She also goes by the name of "Tita Doktor" and is frequently called such by her patients. She finished Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas and took her pediatric residency training for her specialization at the UST Hospital and has been practicing her profession since 1989. She is a Diplomate to the Philippine Pediatric Society and a member of the Philippine Medical Association and the Quezon City Medical Society. During her free time, she takes interest in traveling, dining and dancing with her husband businessman, Roger Enciso. For your pediatric consultation needs, visit Dr. Enciso at her clinic in WCMC, room 217 from Mondays to Saturdays, 10 AM to 12 noon.

Contract Signing

MEDICard
ASIAN TERMINALS INCORPORATED

ASIAN TERMINALS, INC. (ATI) recently signed its renewal healthcare program agreement with MEDICard at the Pool Deck of the Bayview Park Hotel Manila. Present during the signing were (seated L-R) Luis Montoya (MEDICard EVP & GM), Dr. Nicanor Montoya (MEDICard President), Richard Barclay (ATI President), Arturo Lopez (ATI SVP-Corp. Div./Treasurer) and Atty. Rodolfo Corvite (VP-Admin. & Legal) (Standing L-R) Dr. Nicky Montoya (MEDICard Medical Director), Voltaire Victoria (MEDICard Mktg. & Sales Manager), Robert John Chainani (Asst. Supervisor, Mktg. & Sales), Miriam Villafuerte (MEDICard Asst. Manager-Mktg. Services) & Maxilinda Lee (ATI HR Manager). ATI, the Philippines' premier port operator and logistics provider has been MEDICard's valued client since 1999.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 840-2020 local 2017. For group or corporate membership, dial local 2049 and look for a membership consultant. For Cebu Sales Office call (032) 253-5031; For Davao Sales Office call (082) 224-6931/305-3386.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com.

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